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THE AUTHOR IN HIS SEAL SKIN COSTUME.

NARRATIVE

OF A

VOYAGE TO THE SOUTH SEAS,

AND THE

SHIPWRECK

OF THE

PRINCESS OF WALES CUTTER,

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF A

TWO YEARS' RESIDENCE

ON

AN UNINHABITED ISLAND,

BY

ONE OF THE SURVIVORS,

CHARLES MEDYETT GOODRIDGE,

OF PAIGNTON, DEVON.

SECOND EDITION, ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

EXETER:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY W. C. FEATHERSTONE,

AND SOLD BY THE AUTHOR,

1838.

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PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION.

Whatever interest may be found in the following pages, will be derived principally from a plain unvarnished tale, simply told. It is not offered to the public as a work of literary refinement, or poetical flight; as a chapter of horrors to affright the timid, or a pleasing fiction to amuse the thoughtless; but as a *Narrative of Facts*. Since the adventures of Alexander Selkirk, on which De Foe founded his truly moral, and deservedly admired fiction of "Robinson Crusoe," there has not been on record, I believe, an instance of a period of near two years being spent by any European on an Uninhabited and Desert Island. This simple fact will perhaps obtain for this Narrative some interest with the general reader. As a work of instruction, it is hoped it will not be wholly destitute of merit, containing as it does information relative to the natural productions of such a remote and isolated spot. To the moralist it will afford some matter for sober thought; to the believer in a wise and all-ruling Power, it will give a renewed source of consolation, derived from additional proofs of His almighty care and providence;—to those who advocate and lend their aid to that most valuable of institutions, the *Bible Society*, it will afford an additional incentive, if such were wanted, for renewed exertions for the spread of the *Sacred Volume*, particu-

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larly among mariners—for in this Narrative the words of scripture were most fully verified, that such "bread cast upon the waters, shall be found after many days." To none, I trust, will this work be found offensive; for where praise could not brighten the page, the finger of silence has either arrested the pen, or charity has blotted out the stain. In coming before the public as an author, I am sensible I am launching again on an unknown, and to me an unexplored sea—but having weathered so many storms in far distant climes, I build my hopes of a kind reception on that liberal character for which my native country is famed—and which, having swelled my heart with pride, when dwelling at her antipodes, will, I trust, be now my support, when, after all my trials, I come to seek a repose on her friendly soil.

C. M. GOODRIDGE.

In presenting a SECOND EDITION to the public, the author cannot but gratefully acknowledge the patronage his Narrative has received, and although feeling that he is more indebted for its success to the kindness of his numerous subscribers, than to its superior value, yet he flatters himself it has not been found destitute of amusement or instruction; he is therefore induced to solicit an extension of their support.

Recommended and certified by

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and
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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

(From Woolmer's Gazette.)

"This is a very interesting as well as useful work, and the Narrative, while it forcibly reminds us of the celebrated adventures of Robinson Crusoe, bears more the stamp of verity than any other work of the kind we have read. It appears to be—to use the author's language—'a plain, unvarnished tale, simply told.' The relation of the manner in which the shipwrecked mariners passed the long period of two years on a desolate island, cannot but be attractive, and the interest of the tale is heightened, by its having been written, not from hearsay evidence, but by one of the survivors, who has fortunately exchanged his shaggy fur-skin, with cap of the same material, and beard of nearly two-years' growth, for the comforts attached to civilization.

(From the Western Times.)

"We have seen the sheets of a very interesting work now in the press, of which the above is the title. It is the plain, unvarnished tale of a pure Devonshire seaman, whose sufferings and privations by shipwreck, are told with a spirit and energy that could only be felt by one who had experienced what he recounted. The following are extracts :—

'On the 17th a gale came on from the S. E. accompanied by a heavy swell, and the Captain deemed it advisable to gain an offing: we accordingly slipped our cable, and stood to sea, but before we had proceeded any distance, it came on a dead calm, so that we entirely lost all command of the vessel, the swell of the sea continuing at the same time so heavy that our boat was quite useless, for any attempt at towing her in such a swell, and against a strong current which was making directly on the land, was utterly vain. Between us and the land there was a reef of rocks, which too surely threatened us with annihilation, and against them we were driven onwards—not a sacrifice to the violence of a present storm, but victims to the unspent power of a raging sea, lashed into fury by winds which now seemed hushed into breathless silence, the more calmly to witness the effects of the agitation raised by them in the bosom of this immense ocean.'

'The last thing we saved on this day, and which we found floating on the water, was what proved the most invaluable of gifts—it was the identical bible put on board by Captain Cox, the agent of the Merchant Seamen's Bible Society, at Gravesend, on our sailing out of the River Thames, as before mentioned. But too often are the gifts bestowed by the Bible Societies ill ap-

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preciated, and this had undoubtedly been the case with us up to this time; but it soon became our greatest consolation. What made this circumstance more remarkable was, that although we had a variety of other books on board, such as our navigation books, journals, log-books, &c., this was the only article of the kind that we found, nor did we discover the smallest shred of paper of any kind, except this bible; and still equally surprising was it, that after we had carefully dried the leaves, it was so little injured, that its binding remained in a very serviceable condition, and continued so as long as I had an opportunity of using it.'

'I have before said that the most valuable thing we preserved from the wreck was our bible; and I must here state that a portion of each day was set apart for reading it; and by nothing perhaps could I better exemplify its benefits, even in a temporal point of view, than by stating, that to its influence we were indebted for an almost unparalleled unanimity during the whole time we were on the island. The welfare of the community was the individual endeavour of all; and whatever was recommended by the most experienced, was joyfully acquiesced in by the rest. If ever a difference of opinion arose, a majority of voices decided the measure, and individual wishes always gave way to the proposals that obtained the largest suffrages. Peace reigned among us, for the precepts of him who was the harbinger of peace and good will towards men, was daily inculcated and daily practised. It is with the greatest gratification I dwell upon this subject, and never will the benefits bestowed on us by that precious gift be obliterated from my mind. If ever there was a fulfilment of the promise as contained in Ecclesiastes, xi. 1. "*Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days*," this simple fact must bring it home to every, even the least contributor to that most valuable of all institutions, the Seamen's Bible Society; for it was fulfilled even to the very letter.

The *Sun*, London daily paper, in their Review of this work, spoke of it in very favourable terms, following it up with the insertion of some lengthly extracts.

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(From the Exeter Flying Post.)

Narrative of a Voyage to the South Seas, and the Shipwreck of the Princess of Wales Cutter, with an account of a Two Years' Residence on an uninhabited Island. By Charles Medyett Goodridge, of Paignton, Devon; one of the survivors. Second Edition, 1838.—It is sometimes objected to works of this description, that they are written for publication, and being accommodated to public prejudice, assume a formality of style and manner incompatible with the pleasure or interest that would otherwise be created by them; that which is under consideration, however, appears free from every thing of this kind, and to be a result of the unsophisticated feelings of the writer, derived from actual experience and knowledge of that which he relates. There are few who possess better opportunities for the acquirement of information on men and things than seamen, and to them we owe much of our knowledge of distant parts and people. They have the means of observing and describing, and when these observations and descriptions are placed before the public simply and modestly, it is an undertaking deserving great encouragement, and such we would fain hope has been experienced by the narrator here, his little book, we are glad to see, having run to a second edition. The unfortunate Goodridge is a native of Paignton, in this county, and several of his fellow sufferers were Dartmouth men; the narrative, therefore, has much local as well as general interest, nor do we think any one can peruse it without profit. He appears to have a mind rightly attuned—to be a thoughtful and reflecting man; in all cases putting his trust in God, and becoming the more satisfied that His ways are right, the more deeply he was schooled in adversity. On a sealing voyage, in a cutter belonging to London, he was wrecked on the coast of an uninhabited island in the South Seas. Here he and his companions abode for two years, undergoing great privations and sufferings, to relieve which their ingenuity was exercised in extraordinary ways. In this solitude, however, one of their greatest consolations was the possession of a Bible, the story relative to which is so remarkable, that, strongly recommending the book, the reader shall have it in Goodridge's own words. "On sailing from the Thames, Capt. Cox, the then active and zealous agent of the Merchant Seamen's Bible Society, came on board, and after some suitable observations, presented us with a Bible. We thought little of the gift at the time, but the sequel will show that this proved to be the most valuable of all our stores." Having related the manner of the wreck and events immediately subsequent upon it, he says, "The last thing we saved on this day, and which we found floating on the water, was what proved to be the most invaluable of gifts—it was the identical Bible put on board

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by Captain Cox." And again, "Too soon are the gifts bestowed by the Bible Societies ill appreciated, and this had undoubtedly been the case with us up to this time, but it so on became our greatest consolation."

(*From the Western Luminary.*)

This little work has already, as will be perceived, gone through one edition, and we have little doubt will safely go through another. Charles Medyett Goodridge, the hero of the Narrative, is a Mariner, who in a sealing expedition to the South Seas, was wrecked, with several of his companions on an uninhabited island, where he remained for two years. He has painted the sufferings and deprivations they underwent during their lonely sojourn, without any effort, or exaggeration,—and every page shows traces of a thoughtful and pious mind, which has profited from adversity. We have really been much pleased with this narrative, and we wil give an extract to convince our readers that it will amply repay a serious and attentive perusal. On sailing from the Thames it appears the crew of the vessel, in which Goodridge had engaged himself, were visited by the agent of the Merchant Seamen's Bible Society, who presented them with a Bible. This book as is too often the case, was unheeded during the excitement of gain. When the vessel struck, Goodridge and his companions saved scarcely anything but their lives. They however, managed to make two visits to the wreck before it finally went to pieces, though, at great risk, and on the last visit he says:—(*See extracts as given in the Western Times.*).

The Editor adds another extract, which he says is written with simple eloquence:—

"The Bible when bestowed was thrown by unheeded—it traversed wide oceans—it was scattered with the wreck of our frail bark—and was in deed and in truth *found upon the waters after many days*; and not only was the mere book found, but its value was also discovered, and its blessings, so long neglected, were now made apparent to us. Cast away on a desert island, in the midst of an immense ocean, without a hope of deliverance, lost to all human sympathy, mourned as dead by our kindred; in this invaluable book we found the herald of hope, the balm of consolation, the dispenser of peace, the soother of our sorrows, and a pilot to the harbour of eternal happiness."

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NARRATIVE, &c.

As it is usual, when the adventures of any man is considered worthy of being published, to begin by tracing his lineage, I am somewhat at a loss how to commence my undertaking, knowing little more of my descent than that I, in common with all mankind, sprang from our first parents; it must therefore suffice my readers to be informed, that I was born on the 22nd May, in the year 1 796, at Paignton, a village well situated to excite in the mind of youth an inclination for a seafaring life, placed, as it is, on the shores of Torbay, Devon, where so frequently, at the period of my boyhood, those noble structures, which are at once the glory, the pride, and the safeguards of our island, were to be seen majestically floating on the surface of that spacious harbour. This village also is situated near Dartmouth, a sea-port at that time doing a considerable trade in the Newfoundland fisheries, and consequently the focus of much mercantile speculation. The communication from Dartmouth, and also from the fishing town of Brixham, (where his Majesty's ships used to water) with the great Western Road, lay through Paign-

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ton, it was therefore not unfrequent that our village was enlivened by the buoyant spirit of our tars in the overwhelming gaiety of a cruise on shore: and thus, beheld in the sunshine of their glee, the life of a sailor, to the thoughtlessness of the stripling, appeared a smooth voyage on a pleasant sea.

When only eleven years of age, I used frequently to visit the beach at Paignton, between school hours, to see the men-of-war's boats come on shore, and from making myself useful to them on some occasions, the commander of one of the ships expressed a wish to take me to sea with him; but this proposal was overruled by my friends, as they wished to give me more time at school. This, however, did not check the inclination I had felt for the sea, and at the age of thirteen, I hired myself as a cabin boy on board the *Lord Cochrane*, an hired armed brig, stationed off Torbay, to protect the fishing craft from the French cruisers, England being then at war with that nation. Our usual custom was to sail with the fishing vessels every Monday, and return to Torbay every Saturday night. The *Lord Cochrane* mounted 14 six-pounders, and was commanded by Mr. Joseph Tindal, the chief mate Mr. John Storey, of Dartmouth; the sailing master was Mr. George Banfill, and the crew altogether amounted to 36.

It was agreed that I should go three months on trial. It was late at night when I went on board,

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and I was handed through one of the port holes, one of the great guns staring me in the face. The dim light scattered round by a single candle, and the sight of the grim engine of death, over which I was conveyed without much ceremony, gave me no very pleasant feelings towards the life I had chosen; a few days, however, reconciled me to my station, and being treated with kindness by both the master and commander, having also never suffered from sea sickness, I was soon as much pleased with my situation, as I was at first alarmed at my introduction. Our commander was a most spirited and active officer; and the men were frequently exercised at the great guns and small arms, in expectation of their being daily brought into more active use. On the first of September, 1809, having now been at sea some months, I was bound apprentice to Mr. Martin Gibbs, who was part owner of the *Lord Cochrane*, with Mr. Bulteel, a large ship-owner at Catwater, near Plymouth.

I was now placed on board the sloop *Favourite*, Mr. Harrison, master, (being one of the vessels captured at Copenhagen, in September, 1807.) She was destined for Neath, in Wales, after Culm, but when quite ready for sea, it being discovered that she was not a British bottom, the authorities would not permit her to sail. I was then sent to Plymouth to join a ketch commanded by Mr. Harvey, another of the vessels captured at Copen-

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hagen. This vessel was also partly owned by Mr. Bulteel, at whose house I was received and treated very kindly. The crew consisted of two Swedes, two Portuguese, one Dane, the master, and myself, there being a great difficulty to keep English sailors, as so many were required to man the English vessels of war.

This vessel, on arriving at Dartmouth, was also condemned by the authorities on the same grounds as the other. I was then, much to my satisfaction, sent to rejoin the *Lord Cochrane*; as I had been by no means comfortably situated among the Foreign seamen. One of the Portuguese, indeed, had, in consequence of some quarrel, attempted my life, by drawing his knife on me, but I fortunately escaped from him.

Whilst laying in Torbay, in the latter end of October, a signal was made from Berry Head, of a French Privateer being in the offing; we immediately weighed anchor, and got in sight of her just off the start; but after a long chase she escaped by superior sailing. A few days after, however, we fell in with a French merchant brig, laden with wheat, and captured her. My share of prize money amounted to £3., which I received at the usual period of twelve months and a day.

In the early part of 1810, I was removed from the *Lord Cochrane*, to a new sloop belonging to Mr. Gibbs, built by Mr. Page, of Dartmouth.

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This vessel was also named *The Favourite*, Mr. Richard Paddon, of Brixham, master. She was employed in the coal and culm trade, going to and from Wales and Dartmouth, till December of the same year, when we sailed for Waterford to take in provisions for the London market.

When off Wexford, in Ireland, in company with a number of other vessels, we experienced a most violent gale of wind from the S. S. E. which was directly on the land. This was a most appalling scene, and the preservation of the vessel I was in was all but miraculous. She was the only one of the whole fleet that escaped, and most calamitous was the destruction of life, for I am not aware that a single soul of their crews was saved. This was a most sudden and awful visitation, and deeply has it ever been impressed on my memory.

The hair breadth escapes that are frequently the lot of seamen, and the continual danger they are in, it might reasonably be supposed, would lead to serious thought, and to a continual preparation for death; but this, it is but too manifest, is seldom the case—and of this I have been but too frequently the witness;—the danger over, the storm is forgotten, and to a lucky chance is attributed what ought to be the subject of thanksgiving to an over-ruling power. This was exemplified in the conduct of one of the crew, who, having been sent

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aloft to strike the top-mast, finding the fid difficult to get out, began swearing so awfully, that the master severely censured him, asking him how he could use such blasphemous language, whilst we were almost in the jaws of death.'

We were now obliged to make for Milford haven, which we reached in safety. Another vessel with four persons on board, foundered just before she reached the harbour, and all hands perished. We remained in Milford harbour a few days waiting for a fair wind, and our master being then informed that vessels were much wanted at Wexford, he determined on going there, and having nearly reached it, another gale came on, and we were again driven back to Milford, having suffered very severely. A few days after we again sailed, and reached Wexford about Christmas, and being frozen up for three weeks, remained there till February, when we were freighted by Mr. Sparrow, of Inniscorthy, with provisions for London, at £3. 10s. per Ton.

Wexford is famous for the sanguinary battle fought on its bridge, during the Rebellion, and some of the vessels sunk near the bridge on that occasion were still to be seen. We arrived in the river Thames in the beginning of March, 1811. We made another voyage to Ireland, and returned to Southampton, and from thence in July went to Guernsey, with straw for the troops. While laying in the harbour, after our our arrival,

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having drank rather freely, spirit being only 4s. per gallon, I fell overboard from the boat which I was taking on shore to bring off the master, and should have fallen a sacrifice to the baneful effects of drinking, had it not been for the centinel on the east pier, who came to my assistance and rescued me.

In this vessel I remained till April, 1812, when, in consequence of some disagreement, my friends took me out of her, and my indentures were cancelled.

During the next month I was bound apprentice to Mr. Elias Randall, of Dartmouth, for three years. The first vessel I sailed in was a schooner named the *Totnes*, commanded by Mr. Randall. In her I made several voyages to and from London and Dartmouth. During one of these voyages, on October 30, having lost sight of our convoy, (his Majesty's cutter *Sprightly*,) a French privateer appeared in sight, off Beachy Head, and we saw her capture a sloop near us, the crew of which, however, abandoned her in their boat, and escaped on shore. On this we steered for land, intending to run the vessel on shore rather than be captured, and the Privateer gave chase, but about dusk the convoy hove in sight, and the Frenchman made off with all sail. We then bore up for the *Sprightly*, and informed the commander of the unpleasant visit, and he went off in chase of the Frenchman. I

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afterwards heard that he came up with her, and gave her a good peppering, but from some cause was unable to take her.

In June, 1813, Mr. Randall having sold his vessel, and having no immediate employ for me, made an agreement with Mr. Follett, ship builder, of Dartmouth, for me to sail in a vessel belonging to him called *The Trial*, and commanded by Captain Woolcott, also of Dartmouth. This vessel was then laying at Portsmouth, and was hired by government to join a fleet of transports, to take out troops to Spain. On board our vessel were drafted parts of the 20th and 38th regiments of foot, commanded by Lieut. Campbell, and Lieut. Shepherd. We arrived at St. Sebastian, about the latter end of July, after a passage of ten days. Previous to our entering the harbour, we were becalmed, and two of the transports in company, getting in too near the fort of St Sebastian, the French opened a fire of shells upon them. The *Venerable*, 74, was then laying off the fort, and immediately sent in seven boats and towed them out of the reach of the French shot. The storming of this fort had commenced on the evening previous to our arrival, and the thunder and lightning of the British cannon were heard and seen by us during the whole of the night. This was a most imposing sight, the elements appeared almost on fire, from the continued flashing of the cannon and the bursting of the

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shells. In the morning, we landed our troops, to the amount of between four and five thousand, besides a great number of horses, at Passage, which was only three miles from the scene of action; and it was really a grand spectacle, to see what might be denominated an army taking the field, every man eager for the fray—the scene of the conflict within view—the sound of the cannon within hearing,—the music playing the most martial airs—the gay flags floating in the wind—and every face beaming with enthusiasm.—Then, and then only, did I wish myself a soldier, for with the true characteristic of a sailor, I had the usual dislike to a red coat, and the ardent admiration of a blue one.

I could not but remark, on going ashore at Passage, the buoyant spirits of the officers, regaling themselves at the different Inns, who appeared more like a jovial party going to a fete, than men who were so shortly to be engaged in deadly strife. The privates and non-commissioned officers also were enjoying themselves in various ways, a large number were bathing, the weather being extremely warm. A corporal Howard, who went out in our vessel, amused us during the voyage with his previous campaigns, having been in sixteen different engagements, and who appeared almost in ecstacy when we came in sight and hearing of the cannonading on shore, and who I learnt again reached England in safety.

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One of the men on board, having been irregular in his conduct, was threatened with a flogging on his reaching our destination, when he swore in the most determined manner, among his companions, that his first shot in action should be at the officer who had threatened him, if that threat was carried into execution. I name this circumstance to show the feeling with which soldiers view this degrading punishment.

Most of the transports' men were employed on shore, after landing the troops, to assist in erecting batteries, &c. and many of them were killed. The vessel that I belonged to, however, with six or eight others, were dispatched to Bilboa, to take on board French prisoners for England, so I had no opportunity of exercising my newly-born martial spirit. We reached Bilboa about the middle of August, and about 3,000 prisoners were embarked. As there were more vessels than requisite to take them, after remaining to assist in their embarkation, we came home in ballast; which was a great relief to us, for on our voyage out we were so cramped for room, that one third of the men were obliged to remain on deck night and day. We understood from the newspapers when we reached England, that a large portion of the men we carried out were killed in the storming of St. Sebastian, but that both the officers escaped.

We reached Portsmouth about September, and

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during the time we had been away, my master, Mr. Randall, had had a sloop built by Mr. Follett, and I was required to join him;

Shortly after I left *The Trial*, she was sent out to Spain with medicines, &c. for the army, and was totally wrecked at St. Andero; the crew, however, were fortunately saved.

Mr. Randall's new vessel was named the *Dartmouth*, he went with her into the coasting trade, and I remained in her until within a few weeks of the expiration of my apprenticeship, when Mr. Randall gave up my time, in order to enable me to join a vessel belonging to Mr. Harris, about to sail for Newfoundland.

This vessel was named the *Ann*, Mr. Thomas Cowles, master, and the first voyage I made in her after reaching Newfoundland, was to Lisbon, with fish, but there being a slack demand, we proceeded to Figueira, and there disposed of the cargo. We then returned to Newfoundland. On our return passage we saw a vessel dismasted and deserted, but fearing to lose the fair wind, we did not board her. We shortly after made a second trip to Lisbon, with a similar cargo.

While here, in the month of December, the vessel being now under the command of Mr. George Drummond, (at this time master of a vessel out of Brixham,) who had taken the situation of master in consequence of Mr. Cowles' ill health,

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and loading with a cargo of fruit for Bristol, being on shore with two of the crew, Charles Anderson, the mate, a scotchman, and John Dunn, an Irishman, and having made more free with the wine than prudence would have dictated, on returning to the boat which had put ashore for us, we were surrounded by about twenty Portuguese, who, for the sake of plunder, picked a quarrel with us. The Irishman, like most others of his country, was the first to resent the insults offered—but he was immediately attacked by the foreigners with their knives, and had his scull completely laid open. The Scotchman, being the nearest, went to his assistance, and too soon felt the vengeance of the assailants. He was most dreadfully wounded in several places; he had one large gash across his neck, another across his breast, and his face and one of his hands cut in deep gashes. They, however, escaped to the boat, but were on the following day obliged to be sent to the hospital, and it was near four months before they were sufficiently recovered to leave Lisbon. When I saw the fearful odds against my companions, and several of the Portuguese preparing to make a similar attack on me, I made towards the beach, and was followed by two or three of them with their knives drawn; I, however, dashed into the water, and they hesitated to follow me. The boy who came ashore with the boat, Daniel Jennings, (since

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commander of the *Hope*, brig, of Dartmouth, belonging to Mr. Harris,) was witness of the attack, and called to me to make for the boat; but some of the party were between me and the landing place, and I took refuge on board a ballast lighter, from which I subsequently escaped, and reached the boat in safety. My two companions were so weak, from loss of blood, that we were obliged to hoist them on board with a tackle.

We shortly after this left Lisbon for Bristol, and when we had discharged our cargo there, we were hired by government to convey cavalry troops to Ireland. We reached Waterford about the middle of January, and having landed the troops and horses, returned to Dartmouth about the latter end of the same month. I then left her, and remaining on shore some time, I learnt the theory of navigation. I then engaged myself on board a vessel, the *Mary*, Horton, Master, belonging to Messrs. Newman, Hunt, and Co. of Dartmouth, bound for Labrador, and under the instruction of Captain Horton, I brought my theoretical knowledge of navigation into good practice, Mr. H. being an excellent navigator. This was in 1816. On our arrival there, I was removed to a schooner called the *North Ash*, and reached Dartmouth in December of the same year, Mr. Beard, agent to Messrs. Newman, Hunt, and Co. coming home with us.

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In the latter end of January, 1817, I engaged myself on board the *London*, a schooner owned by Mr. Cummings, of Dartmouth, bound for the Western Islands, which had put into the harbour. She was commanded by Mr. Wm. Perring, of Dartmouth, and had on board a general cargo; the merchant, Mr. Walton, of Liverpool, being on board, with his clerk and black servant. When about 300 miles to the eastward of the Western Islands, we were brought to by a large ship, the crew of which were all dressed alike, in yellow. She hailed us, and was on the point of sending a boat on board, when a large vessel hove in sight, and she made off with all sail. From the appearance of both the vessel and crew, we had every reason to believe she was a pirate, and we considered our escape a most fortunate one. We arrived safe at Angra, in the island of Terceira, where we discharged our cargo, and reloaded with apples and onions, which we brought home to Liverpool, arriving in the harbour in the beginning of July. I made a second trip to Angra in this vessel, and on our arrival there, the master having gone on shore with the boat's crew to report the vessel, leaving the mate on board, the latter got hold of the grog bottle, and made himself so drunk, that he was quite incapable of taking care of the vessel, and a strong breeze springing up, with a heavy swell, she was drifting fast on the shore, when we put off and saved her; thus by

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the vicious propensity of one man's drinking to excess, the vessel was nearly lost, and his own life, with that of a boy left on board with him, would most probably have been sacrificed. We loaded home with fruit for Dublin, and arrived there safe about the latter end of October. We then loaded with salt for Guernsey, but had not proceeded far when the vessel sprung a leak, and we were obliged to put back, and having, as we conceived, secured her, we again put to sea, but were obliged to put back secondly, go into dock at Dublin, and get her properly repaired. We again set sail, and on our voyage put into Plymouth; I was here obliged to leave her, being attacked with a rheumatic fever; I however procured a conveyance to my friends at Paignton, but was afterwards unable to leave my bed for many weeks, the ill effects of which I have felt occasionally through life, more particularly since my return to England.

When my health was restored, I joined a brig belonging to Mr. Fogwell, of Totnes, called the *Prince of Orange*, Mr. James Fish, of North Yarmouth, master, and made a voyage to Sunderland, for coals. On entering the harbour it blew a gale of wind, and two vessels in company were lost, but their crews most fortunately escaped. This was about March, 1818. The vessel returned to Dartmouth, and I then made a voyage in her to Memel, in Prussia, for timber, and returned loaded to Topsham, where we discharged our cargo.

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I next joined a ship of 400 tons burthen, named the *Success*, Capt. Waygood, bound to Miramichi. This proved a most stormy passage of 74 days, and both pumps were obliged to be kept at work during all the period, the vessel being extremely leaky. We commenced loading timber, but were obliged to sail with only half a cargo, as the frost was setting in, and we were afraid of being frozen up for the winter. In coming through the Gut of Canso, which separates Cape Breton from Nova Scotia, we struck on a reef of rocks. This added considerably to the leaky state of our vessel, and fearing to proceed through the Gut, we returned through the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and after a very stormy passage, in a leaky ship, we reached England on Christmas Day, 1818.

During the voyage out we had a narrow chance of being run down, in a gale of wind, by a large vessel, which passed within two feet of our spanker boom, in the middle of a very dark night.

In the April following, 1819, I shipped myself on board the *Venus*, Capt, Silly. In this vessel I made three voyages during that year from Newfoundland to Oporto; and returned to Dartmouth in January, 1820, after a passage from Oporto of five days, blowing a gale of wind all the time.

In the April of 1820, I proceeded to London, and now commences that part of my Narrative, which, though I trust it will be the most interest-

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ing to my readers, was the most disastrous to me, and which separated me from my native country for above eleven years.

While in search of employ, I heard of a vessel about to sail on a sealing voyage in the Southern Ocean. Of all mercantile voyages, perhaps, this is one which promises more hardships to the sailor than any other; and, therefore, as an excitement to his exertions, and a reward for his labours, it is usually undertaken by the share; that is, each mariner gets a portion of the skins procured.

The day I entered was May the 1st, 1820, on a Monday, made memorable by the execution of Thistlewood and five others for high treason. Curiosity led me to witness their exit, and I was very near being crushed to death by the crowd.

The vessel I joined on this expedition was named the *Princess of Wales*, a cutter, burthen about 75 tons. She had previously been a Margate hoy, and was purchased by Mr. Brooks, and others, of 80, Old Broad Street, London. The crew consisted of the commander, Captain William Veale; the mate, Matthias Mazora, an Italian; 3 boys and 10 mariners.

After we had shipped our necessary stores and provisions, we sailed from Limehouse Hole on the 9th of May, having a fair wind down the river. We stopped one tide at Gravesend, and had the articles of our agreement read over to us by Mr.

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Islands, where we arrived the latter end of June. Our business here was to procure salt, and having taken on board sufficient to salt 10,000 skins, we proceeded to St. Jago, another of the Cape de Verd Islands, to take on board a supply of water. There was a large schooner laying at Bonavista, well armed and well manned, and from her appearance we were led to conjecture that she was engaged in that most cruel of all trades, the procuring of slaves for our West India Colonies.

At this place we obtained a monkey, and having caught a large turtle, Jacko coming too near him, while laying on the deck, was so severely bit by it that it died. The turtle weighed near a hundred weight, and made us several good meals. We took on board here a stock of yams, and a quantity of leaf tobacco, which the sailors formed into rolls, for future consumption.

Off the island of Fuego, (Fire, so called from its containing a volcano which burns continually,) we were boarded by a Spanish man-of-war brig. She sent on board of us her launch full of armed men, and among them a man of colour, who acted as an interpreter. The officer of the boat was so much crippled that he was obliged to be helped over

the north-east and south-east trade winds nearly meet each other; but at other times there will be an interval of several degrees between them; this interval is subject to calms, squalls, thunder, lightning, and heavy rains, and if any wind prevail, it is usually from the south-west quarter."

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the side of our vessel into their boat, which afterwards was the occasion of some jokes, not at the officer's misfortune, but at the idea of employing on active service such a lame leader. The Spanish sailors were making more free than welcome in overhauling our hold, &c., which being perceived by the commander of the Spanish ship, he immediately ordered them to leave our vessel, which was done, and we experienced no further annoyance. The Spaniard at this time had a large ship in charge but we could not understand what she was. Here we saw flying-fish in abundance, as also Bonetas, and that beautiful fish the Dolphin.

On the 3rd of July, we arrived at Port Praya, St. Jago, were we supplied ourselves with water, and on the following day, proceeded with a favorable wind from the North-east, which is the prevailing wind in those latitudes.

On the 19th of July we crossed the Equator, in the longitude of 22 deg. West, and here, with six others, I underwent the *very pleasant* ceremony of being shaved. I will not go into the shaving process we went through, but give my readers a very graphic description as performed on a larger scale, and with all due ceremony.*

* One lovely evening, when our gallant vessel was calmly floating on the unruffled bosom of the deep, within the tropics, and I sitting at the open port, gazing thoughtfully on the setting sun, I was suddenly startled from my meditations by the cry of,

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From the Equator, to 30 degrees South, the wind

"A sail a-head! halo! Neptune! Neptune! a-hoy!" and, on gaining the deck, perceived a large tar-barrel flaming on the ocean, and gliding past our vessel, which, I was given to understand, was the royal barge of the venerable watery god, who had announced his intention of coming on board next morning, to superintend the shaving of such of his children as had not previously crossed the great boundary of his dominions. Next morning, accordingly, this august personage made his appearance on the quarter-deck, about half-past nine A.M., and advanced to seat himself on a gun carriage, under a gorgeous canopy of various-coloured flags, and surrounded by innumerable streamers, which kept waving to and fro with every wandering breeze. His dress, consisting of a Buffalo's hide, with such other varieties as could be procured on board, added to an iron-crowned hoary-bearded mask, rendered him a very grotesque figure. By his side was seated a gigantic white-robed mariner, something resembling an old weather beaten woman, intended to represent Amphitrite. The royal chariot, preceded by a band of music, and drawn by sixteen men, painted from head to foot in the most ludicrous fashion, led the van of the procession, and was followed by the numerous constables, bearing their rods of office, all decorated in a singular manner. Next followed the important barber, with his train of necessary attendants, and his Oceanic Majesty's household brought up the rear. After parading the Quarter deck with all due ceremony, the procession halted opposite the cuddy door, (that is, the door of the great cabin on the upper deck), where his godship was welcomed by the officers, and accepted the offer of a glass of spirits; nor had his fair spouse any hesitation in swallowing a potent draught of the same inspiring nectar. When the barber, (who did not fail to exhibit his huge iron razor) and several of the other attendants had also paid their devotions at the shrine of Bacchus, the car was drawn into the lee waist, where were prepared a deep cistern (composed of a tarred topsail, supported at the four corners by corresponding stanchions, and filled to the brim with the salt water

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always blows between the South and East, and is

of the tropical ocean,) a covered throne for Neptune and his exquisite consort, a scaffolding for the barber and suite, and a narrow plank across the reservoir, on which were to be seated those unenviable individuals who were destined to undergo the ceremony of "shaving." At this moment the beating of the drums, the sound of the horns, the shouts of the mariners, and the cries of "Bring forth my sons! bring forth my sons!" indicated to the anxious beings below, on the gun-deck, that all was in readiness to commence the business of the day; and immediately a band of the horrific constables came to lead me, blindfolded, and with a palpitating heart, to the place of execution. No sooner had I gained the summit of the companion-ladder, than a deluge of salt water from innumerable buckets were discharged unceremoniously into my face; and when I attempted to gasp for breath, an unceasing stream from the fire-engine was directed, by some expert hand right into my mouth. In this state, panting, and almost breathless, I rushed forwards, with much exertion, dragging constables and attendants after me, till I gained the foot of the ladder which led to the plank crossing the cistern. This I ascended with some difficulty amid the cheering of a merciless multitude, took my seat on the tottering plank, and awaited with anxious expectation the dreadful result of all this ceremony. I had not sat long till a rough brush, (every hair of which seemed to be formed of a porcupine's quill) saluted my chin; then a sharp-toothed saw (intended to represent a razor) was passed over my cheeks; then a bucket of water was thrown into my face, then another dense stream from the fire-engine was directed into my mouth, and then the frail plank was withdrawn from under me, and I plunged headlong and breathless into the abyss below! This was not all. In the cistern was a shelf and on this shelf a man (dressed in a bear's skin, and creeping on all fours), whose duty it was to hold the subject of their mirth for some time under the surface of the water. Struggling, as it were, for my existence, no sooner did I feel the horned clutches of the great bear, than I struck him such a blow on the head as caused him to let go

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called the South-east Trade Winds. We stretched across for the banks of Brazil, till we got out of the Trade Winds, in the latitude of 30 degrees South; and on the 15th of August we met the prevailing Westerly winds, and then steered our course for Walwich Bay, on the coast of Africa, near the tropic of Capricorn. We arrived there about the

his grasp; and, almost insensible, I scrambled up the sides of the cistern, and threw myself down on the deck below. Still no quarter was allowed me; I had yet to make my way through a deluge of water, showered on me from the forecastle, the decks, the booms, and the tops, to the after-part of the vessel; which had I not immediately accomplished, I verily believe I should have sunk exhausted under the ordeal. Notwithstanding all this roughing, however, I contrived on the whole to keep my good humour; and I had no sooner recovered, and begun to look about me, than I seized a bucket, joined the enraptured performers of this busy scene, and was among the first to salute my hapless messmates, who next made their appearance. After all the midshipmen had passed through the hands of the barber, the shaving of the seamen commenced. This was a more serious business, for the chins of many bled profusely, and their mouths and eyes were fearfully disfigured by the tarry brush of the barber, while torrents of their favorite element were showered on their hooded heads, without sympathy or restraint. In the mean time the shaving advanced with great rapidity; and before twelve o'clock, the procession returned, in all its pomp, to the cuddy door, in the same order as formerly, when the captain's health, with that of all the legitimate sons of Neptune, was drank with loud and continued cheers, and then the sports of the morning concluded. But towards the evening, the captain ordered a liberal supply of grog to be served out to each of the sailors; and the remainder of that night was spent in—"Draining the goblet, and singing the song."
—*Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, No. 50.*

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beginning of September, and our water getting short, we were obliged to explore the shore to procure some; the natives however being cannibals, and considered very savage, we sent the boat's crew on shore well supplied with fire-arms. The natives presented a very formidable appearance, to the number of nearly 500, all naked, but armed with spears. The dread of our fire-arms prevented any attack, and one of the chiefs at last ordered them to lay down their spears. They immediately complied, and came down to the beach to us unarmed, and were very friendly, the women singing, and the men dancing, affording us considerable amusement. We remained here some days, and for small quantities of Iron Hoop, Bread, and Tobacco, obtained Bullocks, Goats, Ivory, and other articles, the produce of their country. The iron hoop was termed by the natives *Cantabar*; the tobacco, *Backasah*. In their eating they were very disgusting, preferring any putrid substances to wholesome animal food, of which they had an abundance; as an instance, a dead Whale had been washed on shore, and the carcase stunk to such a degree that we could not go near it, but there was continually a number of the natives eagerly devouring it. Our errand being to get water, and not being able to find any, we made signs to the natives to procure some, which they understood, and did indeed provide us with, but only in small quantities in

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Ostrich's egg shells; this being quite inadequate to our wants, we explored the shore for some distance to the leeward, and tried in several places, but to our great disappointment, after considerable labour in digging, we could procure nothing but salt water; we even ventured as far as a mile in shore, but with as little success, and were obliged to depart without any sufficient supply. We saw a great number of Ostriches on the shore, and there were also Gannets, black Eaglets, and a variety of other birds peculiar to these latitudes.

On seeing a large rookery * of Shags, nearly a mile in circumference, we went on shore among them, and found them in possession of quantities of small fish, quite fresh, of which we supplied ourselves plentifully, for our own use. We afterwards, however, caught sufficient for our supply, in the bay, particularly Hake, such as are caught by the Torbay Fishermen. Sharks were also very numerous, which were no welcome visitors to our hooks and lines.

The natives were of middle stature, their skin very black, but they painted their faces with a kind of red ochre; and the women decorated their hair with buttons and shells, the former of which were in much request as an article of traffic. They were

* Rookeries is the term given to large congregations of birds on the shore, by Southseamen.

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very expert with their spears; we frequently saw them come to the water's edge, and kill the fish as they were swimming, and with a certain aim.

During our stay here, I had a very narrow escape for my life: we had our muskets on deck for the purpose of loading them, previously to going on shore, when one of the crew took up one, levelled it at me, and pulling the triger, the pan flashed fire; he was dreadfully alarmed, and looked at me almost petrified, expecting to have found me dead at his feet, for at the instant the not hearing of any report did not serve to convince him that the piece had not been discharged. On recovering himself, he threw a little more powder into the pan, and levelling at one of the blocks at the yard-arm, it went off, and shattered the block in pieces. It would be impossible for me to describe my own feelings at what I could never consider otherwise than as an interposition of that Providence which, during my chequered life, has preserved me amid so many imminent dangers.

In a few days we set sail, and proceeded on our voyage. About the middle of September, we had very heavy boisterous weather; but we got round the Cape of Good Hope about the end of the month. We tried to make the Islands of Marseven and Diana, but the weather being still foggy, we failed in the attempt, we then proceeded on our voyage, and steered our course for Prince Edward's Islands, in

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the Southern Ocean. Our water now becoming extremely short, we were much pleased to see the birds called Divers, which is a certain sign of being near land, and it was with great joy, that, on the 1st of November, we made them, having, however, from the thickness of the weather, nearly passed between them unobserved. The southernmost island, which is the largest, lies in the latitude of 46 deg. 53 min. South, and longitude of 37 deg. 46 min. East; the northernmost about nine leagues distant, and in latitude 46 deg. 40 min. South, and in longitude 38 deg. 3 min. East.

I was much startled on nearing these islands, it being in the night, to hear what appeared to me to be human voices proceeding from the water; but on enquiry, I was informed it proceeded from the king penguins, most beautiful birds, which frequents these seas in great numbers, in the vicinity of land.

We commenced our operations of sealing on the northernmost island, on the 2nd of November, but found the seals very scarce. There were sea elephants in great numbers, but we were not fitted out for procuring elephant oil.

As there is no harbour for shelter, the plan pursued is, for one party to go on shore, provided with necessary provisions for several days, while the remainder of the crew remain to take care of the vessel, and to salt in what skins are procured. The

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prevailing winds are from the westward, and we used to lie with our vessel under the shelter of the island, and whenever the wind shifted to the eastward, which it sometimes did very suddenly, we had to weigh our anchor, or slip the cable, and stand out to sea. The easterly winds scarcely ever lasted more than two days, when it would hop round to the northward, with rain, and then come round to W. N. W. We should then return again to our shelter, take on board the skins collected, and again furnish the sealing party with provisions. The most boisterous season of the year in these latitudes commences in August, during which month the most tremendous gales are experienced, with much snow, rain, and hail.

The hardships and privations experienced in procuring Seal skins on those islands may be faintly conjectured, when I state the plan pursued by the parties on shore. The land affords no shelter whatever, there being neither tree or shrub on these islands; and the weather is at most times extremely wet, and snow frequently on the ground; indeed, there is scarcely more than a month's fine weather during the year. Their boat, therefore, hauled on shore, serves them for their dwelling-house by day, and their lodging-house by night. Their provisions consist of salt pork, bread, coffee, and molasses; and on this scanty fare, with the shelter only of their boat turned upside down, and

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tussicked up,* they sometimes remain a fortnight at a time, each day undergoing excessive labour in searching for and killing seals, and very often without meeting with an adequate reward after all their privations. Added to this, when a gale renders it necessary for their vessel to drive to sea, each hour she is absent the mind is harrassed with fears for her safety, and of the consequences that would result to themselves if thus left on such a desolate spot, surrounded by a vast ocean, and where years might pass without a vessel ever coming near them.

Various birds inhabit these islands, or rather breed on them, such as the Albatross, Nellys, Peeos, Mollimocks, Sea Hens, Gulls, and different species of Penguins. Sea Elephants also resort to them in great numbers; a detailed description of which I shall give in a future page.

We continued our sealing operations on these islands till the beginning of December, but finding the Seals by no means so numerous as we expected, and having taken on board our sealing party, with what skins they had collected, we proceeded to some other islands, commonly called the *Crozets*, having been discovered by Captain Crozet, a French navigator, in the year 1772.

* Tussicking up the boat consists of placing one edge on the ground, then raising the other edge three or four feet, with a sort of turf wall, leaving an opening for a doorway sufficient for the men to creep in and out. A fire is made outside the opening with sea elephant blubber, and each man, on retiring to rest takes his station between the thwarts of the boats where he usually rows.

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These islands are situated in the parallels of latitude between 46 and 47 deg. South, and longitude between 46 and 50 degrees East, and are very seldom visited. We made the three westernmost of them the 24th of December, being Christmas Eve. The two small islands lie about 30 miles apart, the smallest being 6 miles in circumference, distant 12 miles, bearing E. S. E., from the largest, the other 12 miles in circumference, distant 30 miles, and bearing S. E. by S. These distances I do not of course give from actual survey, but only from the best of my judgment. The largest of the three is about 25 miles in circumference, and lies about 30 miles distant from one of the small ones, and about 12 miles from the other—the three forming an irregular triangle. The other two islands, which we subsequently visited, are about 70 or 80 miles to the Eastward of the three first, and lie about 11 miles from each other.

In Capt. Cook's voyages, these Islands are stated to be only four in number, but there are five; two of them, however, as I have said before, being small, and the weather in these latitudes being generally foggy, one of them might very easily have been overlooked, in the cursory view taken of them by that able navigator. In Smith's General Atlas they are laid down very correctly.

It may be well to remark here, that to the leeward of the largest of the first three islands alluded

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to, there is a reef of rocks, distant about five or six miles from the land, and as there is no harbour, vessels visiting it would naturally seek shelter on that side, and these rocks are, therefore, in a situation which renders them peculiarly dangerous. To the best of my recollection they bore N. N. E. from the nearest point of land. I took their bearing accurately, when there, but my log having been lost in the vessel, at this distance of time I cannot be quite positive.

When we first made the Crozets, we observed on the large island a number of animals, which we joyfully anticipated to be Seals; but our disappointment was in proportion to our previous joy, when we discovered with our glasses that they were Hogs. We landed on this island on Christmas Day, and found these animals very numerous, and very large; indeed so formidable that it was dangerous to attack them single handed, as they are very ferocious, and the boars are armed with very large tusks. We killed one large Hog and some small ones, but as their only food is the coarse grass, and the bodies of dead Penguins, their flesh was not very palatable. The small islands were completely iron-bound, that is, the shores are so rocky and perpendicular, that there was no landing with any safety, and we consequently did not make any attempt at sealing on them. Our boats went on shore once on one

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them, and brought off several young seals to serve for provisions; but not seeing any seals with our glasses on the other, we did not land at all. The Sea Elephants, and different species of birds, were more numerous on the islands on which we first landed than on any of the others. The King Penguins were particularly numerous, and as they were by no means so on the other islands, I will describe them here: their size is about that of a goose; their rookeries, in some places as much as a mile and a half in circumference, are situated on the low swampy beaches, where the fresh water running from the mountains, causes it to be continually wet; but this, as they make no nest, is of no inconvenience to them. They are very handsome birds, the colour of their necks being a mixture of red, yellow, and purple, their backs gray, and their breast white. They lay but one egg, which they carry in a pouch under their bellies, very similar to the pouch in which Kangaroos carry their young. In this pouch it remains during the period of incubation, which is about 7 weeks. Their flesh is not good for food, but we used to make use of their eggs, of which we robbed them, and this they would permit us to do, without making the least resistance, being so tame that we could catch them with our hands, or knock them down with a stick, whenever we felt disposed. When robbed of their egg, they would

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lay again. They commence laying in November, and by depriving them of their eggs, they continued to lay till March. Their feathers are very short, and their cry resembles the hallooing of the human voice. They have no wings, but have instead, what are termed flippers, which they make use of in swimming. This is also the characteristic of all the four species of Penguins. Their posture when walking is quite erect, but their gait awkward. At a distance they have the appearance of a number of young children, in white aprons. Of the skins of the King Penguins, we used to form a sort of shoe, (called by South-seamen, Moccassins,) by turning the feathers inward, and drawing them tight over our feet. They were very comfortable, but not very durable, for by our excursions over the mountainous and rocky parts of the Island, a few hours tramp would wear them completely out.

We continued our sealing on this island till the beginning of February, but having only obtained about 400 skins, and hoping that we might find the Seals more plentiful at the other islands, we took our hands on board, and proceeded for them. On the 5th of February, we again landed our sealing party, eight in number, on the easternmost island, leaving their usual supply of provisions with them, and the remaining seven proceeded with the vessel to the other island, in which there was a bay, which afforded some shelter.

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The sealing party consisted of Matthias Mazora, and Dominick Spesinick, Italians; Emanuel Petherbridge, of Dartmouth; John Soper, also of Dartmouth; John Norman, of London; John Piller, of London; Richard Millechant, of Dartmouth, and John Walters, of London.

Those in the vessel consisted of Mr. Veale, of Dartmouth, the master; his brother, Mr. Jarvis Veale; myself, Henry Parnel, William Hooper, and Benjamin Baker of London; and John Newbee, an Hanoverian.

We used to visit the sealing party every seven or eight days, take on board the skins collected, supply them with a fresh stock of provisions, and again return to the other island, employing ourselves in the mean time, in salting the skins procured; we found however a great scarcity of Seals on these islands also, at least as to the quantity we had been given to expect.

The last time we visited our sealing party was on the 10th of March, and our intention was to have visited them again on the 18th, but this turned out to be our last visit, at least with our vessel.

On the 17th a gale came on from the S. E. accompanied by a heavy swell, and the Captain deemed it advisable to gain an offing; we accordingly slipped our cable and stood to sea, but before we had proceeded any distance, it came on a dead calm, so that we entirely lost all command of the

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vessel, the swell of the sea continuing at the same time so heavy that our boat was quite useless, for any attempt at towing her in such a swell, and against a strong current which was making directly on the land, was utterly vain; more particularly as the boats used in this service are made very light. The island presented to our view a perpendicular cliff, with numerous rocks protruding into the sea, which too surely threatened us with annihilation; and against them we were driven onwards —not a sacrifice to the violence of a present storm, but victims to the unspent power of a raging sea, lashed into fury by winds which now seemed hushed into breathless silence, the more calmly to witness the effects of the agitation raised by them in the bosom of this immense ocean. Weak indeed were our efforts to stem its force; we attempted to sound for a bottom, in the hope that we might be enabled to have recourse to our remaining anchor, but that hope was vain, as our longest lengths of line were found inadequate to reach it. It was now ten at night, and all was confusion, for our imaginations led us to suppose ourselves much nearer the rocks than we really were; and from this time till midnight we were in momentary expectation of striking.—The suspence was truly awful; indeed the horrors we experienced were far more dreadful than I had ever felt or witnessed, even in the most violent storms; for on such occasions the

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persevering spirits of Englishmen will struggle with the elements, even to the last blast, or to the last wave that may overwhelm them; but here there was nothing to combat; we were led on by an invisible power—all was calm above us—around us the surface of the sea, although raised into a mountainous swell, was comparatively smooth; but the distant sound of its continued crash on the breakers, to which we were drawn by an irresitible force, broke on our ears as our death knell, and every moment brought us nearer to what appeared inevitable destruction. At last the awful moment arrived, and about 12 o'clock at night, she struck with great violence. Although previous to her striking all hands appeared paralysed, now arrived the period for action. The boat was fortunately got out without any accident, and all hands got into her with such articles as we could immediately put our hands on, among which were a Kettle, a Frying-pan, and a Fire-bag, (this article is a tinder-box, supplied with cotton matches, and carefully secured from the damp in a tarpawling bag, and generally used by Southseamen,) but without any provisions or clothes, except what we stood upright in; and unfortunately for me, I had in the morning taken off a good suit of clothes, and put on one not worth five shillings; this, with a great coat I by chance saved, having previously put it into the boat, was all I secured.

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The night was dark and rainy, the vessel was pitching bowsprit under, we were surrounded by rocks, and the nearest shore was a perpendicular cliff of great height. We however tugged lustily at the oars, but with little progress, the sea-weed called kelp, being extremely thick, long, and strong, and the current running direct on the shore. We had not cleared the vessel above a quarter of an hour before we were threatened with another danger: an enormous Whale rose very near us, and began beating the water with the flooks of its tail, within a very few yards of the stern of our boat, but it fortunately did us no injury.*

After four hours incessant labour, we succeeded in effecting a landing, on a more accessible part of the island, but our boat was swamped, and it was with great difficulty we succeeded in dragging her on shore, which however we at length succeeded in doing, and by turning her bottom upwards, and propping up one side as before described, we crept under and obtained some little shelter from the rain, being all miserably cold, wet, and hungry.

We remained huddled together till day-light appeared, and our craving appetites then told us it was time to seek for sustenance; we therefore sallied

* In Whaling voyages, this is one of the most formidable dangers experienced, as the whale will sometimes strike a boat so forcibly as to send it into the air crew and all, and the lives of the men are frequently lost by such accidents.

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forth in search of a sea elephant; and although they were rather scarce at this period of the year, it was not long before we found one; nor was it long before we had dispatched it. With its blubber we soon kindled a fire; and the heart, tongue, and such other parts as were eatable, with the assistance of our kettle and frying-pan, were soon in a forward state of cookery. We also made a fire of some blubber under our boat, and by it we dried our clothes, and made ourselves somewhat more comfortable.

When we were in some measure refreshed, and had recruited our strength with the food we had procured, a party of us set out over the hills, in the direction of the spot where the vessel was wrecked, in order to ascertain her fate; and to see if there was a possibility of saving any thing out of her. They returned about the middle of the day, and reported that she was laying on the rocks, on her beam ends, with a large hole in her lower planks, and the sea breaking over her; so that it was impossible she could hold together much longer; it was evident, therefore, that all hopes of saving her was at an end, and our endeavours could now only be exerted for the purpose of saving any portion of the wreck that might prove serviceable to us in our desolate situation, and to which we now considered ourselves doomed for life.

On the following morning we succeeded in

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launching our boat, and we then proceeded towards the wreck. In our progress we discovered a cove much nearer the vessel than where we landed, and we resolved to make this our immediate station.

We next visited the wreck, and succeeded the first day, in saving the Captain's chest, the Mate's chest and also several planks. On the following day, the 20th of March, we picked up her trisail, and some casks of bread; the casks however, not being water tight, the bread was all spoilt by the salt water.

The last thing we saved on this day, and which we found floating on the water, was, what proved the most invaluable of gifs,—it was the identical bible put on board by Captain Cox, the agent of the Merchant Seaman's Bible Society, at Gravesend, on our sailing out of the river Thames, as before mentioned.

But too often are the gifts bestowed by the Bible Societies ill appreciated, and this had undoubtedly been the case with us, up to this time; but it soon became our greatest consolation.

What made this circumstance more remarkable was, that although we had a variety of other books on board, such as our navigation books, journals, log-books, &c. this was the only article of the kind that we found, nor did we discover the smallest shred of paper of any kind, except this bible; and still equally surprising was it, that after we had

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carefully dried the leaves, it was so little injured, that its binding remained in a very serviceable condition, and continued so, as long as I had an opportunity of using it.

On the next day the wind blew very strong, and we saw to our sorrow that nothing remained of our vessel but the mast, which had become entangled by the rigging among the rocks, and sea weed, and this was the last thing we were enabled to secure.

The weather continued so wet and boisterous for three weeks from this time, that it was as much as we could well do to procure necessary food for our sustenance, and we therefore contented ourselves with the shelter our boat, tussicked up as before described, afforded us during that period; the weather proving now less inclement, and our minds being somewhat more reconciled to our forlorn situation, we set about collecting all the materials we had saved, and then commenced erecting for ourselves a more commodious dwelling-place. The sides we formed of stones, and the wood saved from the wreck, for there was not a shrub or tree growing in the whole island; the top we covered with Sea Elephant's skins, and at the end of a few weeks we were comparatively well lodged. We made our beds of the long grass, called tussick, with which the island abounded; and the skins of the Seals we chanced to kill served us for sheets, blankets and counterpanes. My readers must

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not conceive, however, that we were very complete builders, for besides having but few tools, we had neither lime for cement or white-washing, or paint for decoration; and also wanting glass we were obliged to do without windows; the same opening, therefore, that served us for entrance, served us also for the admission of light, and air; and when the weather obliged us to shut out the cold, we were obliged to shut out the light of day also.

While constructing our hut we found on the island traces of some Americans who had visited these islands sixteen years before, and who had built a hut and other conveniences; the Sea Elephants, however, had trodden almost every thing into the ground; and as we had no tools wherewith to dig, we could not search for any thing they might have left. Providence, however, at length threw the means in our way of effecting our wishes; —for one of our company, while searching for eggs at a considerable distance from our building, found a pick-axe, and brought it home in high glee. To men situated as we were, and cherishing a sort of superstition, which I have before remarked on, it was not to be wondered at that we should deem this almost a miracle; suffice it, however, to say, we all returned our hearty thanksgivings for the favour, and set to in good earnest to make use of it, by digging up the place where traces of the hut

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remained; and our labour proved not to be in vain; for we got up out of the earth a quantity of timber; we also found part of a pitch pot, which would hold about a gallon. This proved highly valuable to us, for, by the help of a piece of iron hoop, we afterwards manufactured it into a frying pan, our other being worn so thin by continued use that it was scarcely fit to cook in. Digging further we found a broad axe, a sharpening stone, a piece of a shovel, and an auger; also a number of iron hoops. These things were of essential service to us. We did not save any of our lances from the vessel, and we had often considerable labour to kill the large male Sea Elephants; but we now took the handle of our old frying pan, and with the help of the sharpening-stone, gave it a good point—we then fixed it in a handle, and with this weapon we dispatched these animals with ease.

It may be conceived that our domicile, although comfortable, in comparison to our boat tussicked up, was by no means a very cheerful abode during stormy weather; and as the smoke had to make its way out in the best manner it could, for want of a good draught, it would generally make the circuit of our room before it found an exit; and therefore, after we had been thus confined for some days, we might well have been mistaken for a company of chimney-sweepers, our exterior being as sooty as might needs be, and our whole persons pretty tolerably smoke-dried into the bargain.

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(The dog seals are named by South-seamen *Wigs*, and the female seals are called *Clap-matches*.) The male seals or Wigs are larger than the largest Newfoundland dog, and their bark is somewhat similar. When attacked they would attempt to bite; and it required some dexterity to avoid their teeth, the wounds from which were difficult to heal. After our wreck, we used to kill them only for their skins, to make articles of clothing, as the flesh was very rank. The skin of the females we preferred for bedding—their cry when attacked resembled the human voice. They bring forth their young usually about December, on shore, where they also suckle them, but make the sea their general resort. The young ones are usually denominated Pompeys by South-seamen, and are very excellent for food. They are quite black and glossy, and almost devoid of fur. When two or three months old they become a beautiful silver grey, but are not so desirable for the table, as they are then weaned, and having to provide for themselves, become comparatively lean. The supply of seals we found very scanty, our principal dependence therefore, was on the Sea Elephants, which, from their great tameness, became an easy prey; and they served us for meat, washing, lodging, firing, lamp-light, shoe-leather, sewing-thread, grates, washing-tubs, and tobacco-pipes. The parts we made use of for food,

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were the heart, tongue, sweetbread, and the tender parts of the skin; the snotters, (a sort of fleshy skin which hangs over the nose,) and the flippers, (a sort of fin, which assists the animal in swimming.)* These, after boiling a considerable time, formed a kind of jelly, and made, with the addition of some eggs, adding a pigeon or two, or a sea hen, very good soup. The blood served to wash with, as it quickly removed either dirt or grease. When we had articles that needed washing, and had killed an Elephant, we used to turn the carcase on its back, and the intestines being taken out, a quantity of blood would flow into the cavity. In this we cleansed the articles, and then rinsing them in the stream, they were washed as well as if we had been provided with soap.

The skins, as I have before stated, served us for roofing, and might therefore be well said to furnish us with lodging; of the skins also we used to form our shoes or moccassins, when we were out of King Penguin's skins, or wished to make a more duable article for wear; and these we used to sew together with thongs formed from their sinews. Their teeth we used to form into the bowls of pipes, and to this we used to attach the leg or wing-bone of some water fowl, and together it formed a very good apparatus. Having no tobacco, we used the

* The flesh resembled very coarse beef, to the eye, but was very hard, and by no means pala table.

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dried grass that grew on the island, and although it was but a poor substitute, we were obliged to be satisfied with it.

Of Sea Elephants' blubber we made our fires, and their bones we used to lay across on some stones, to form grates to lay the blubber on. Of a piece of blubber also, with a piece of rope yarn stuck in it, we formed our lamps, and it produced a very good light. These animals are, I consider, a species of Walrus, but are very different from those described by naturalists; at least in such works as I have had an opportunity of examining, among others, Shaw's Zoology, Wood's ditto, Mavor's Natural History, &c.

It has been enquired of me, whether it might not have been what is called the *Sea Lion*; but the description of this animal given by Capt. Cook, in his voyages round the world, by no means corresponds.

The largest Elephants are about twenty-five feet long, and eighteen feet round, and their blubber was frequently seven inches thick, and would yield a tun of oil.

Our cookery consisted principally of soup, comprised of the different parts of the Sea Elephant enumerated, with the addition of eggs, instead of vegetables or bread. To this we frequently added the brains of the animal, which was almost as sweet as sugar, and was frequently eaten by us in its raw state.

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The only kind of vegetable on the island, besides grass, was a plant resembling a cabbage in appearance, but we found it so bitter that we could make no use of it.

Mr. Veale had fortunately saved his watch uninjured, so we were able to divide our time pretty regularly. When settled in our habitation, we usually rose about eight in the morning, and took breakfast at nine; after breakfast, some of the party would go catering for the day's provisions, whilst the others remained home to fulfil the domestic offices, to cook, &c. We dined generally about one o'clock, and took tea about five. For some months this latter meal, as far as the beverage went, consisted only of boiled water; but we afterwards manufactured what we named Mocoa, as a substitute for tea, and this consisted of raw eggs beat up in hot water. We supped about seven or eight, and generally retired to rest about ten. We had saved an oil-can in the boat; this served us to make our mocoa in, and it favoured our other cooking apparatus.

I have before said that the most valuable thing we preserved from the wreck was our bible; and I must here state that some portion of each day was set apart for reading it; and by nothing perhaps could I better exemplify its benefits, even in a temporal point of view, than by stating, that to its influence we were indebted for an almost unparalleled

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unanimity during the whole time we were on the island. The welfare of the community was the individual endeavour of all; and whatever was recommended by the most experienced, was joyfully acquiesced in by the rest. If ever a difference of opinion arose, a majority of voices decided the measure, and individual wishes always gave way to the proposals that obtained the largest suffrages. Peace reigned among us, for the precepts of Him who was the harbinger of peace and good-will towards men, was daily inculcated, and daily practised. It is with the greatest gratification I dwell on this subject, and never will the benefits bestowed on us by that precious gift be obliterated from my mind. If ever there was a fulfilment of the promise, as contained in Ecclesiastes, xi. 1. "*Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days,*" this simple fact must bring it home to every, even the least, contributor to that most valuable of all institutions, the Seaman's Bible Society; for it was fulfilled even to the very letter:—The Bible when bestowed was thrown by unheeded—it traversed wide oceans—it was scattered with the wreck of our frail bark—and was indeed and in truth *found upon the waters after many days;* and not only was the mere book found, but its value was also discovered, and its blessings, so long neglected, were now made apparent to us. Cast away on a desert island, in the midst of an

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immense ocean, without a hope of deliverance, lost to all human sympathy, mourned as dead by our kindred; in this invaluable book we found the herald of hope, the balm of consolation, the dispenser of peace, the soother of our sorrows, and a pilot to the harbour of eternal happiness.

Another striking fact may be here stated. One of our crew, whose name my readers will I am sure pardon me for withholding, was a professed Atheist; he was, however, extremely ignorant, not being able even to read. This man had frequently derided our religious exercises, but having no one to second him, it had no influence with the others, and, therefore, did not disturb the harmony that reigned among us. Sailors are, generally speaking superstitious, yet it is by no means a superstition which begets fear; but rather a belief in supernatural agency, and in prognostications; and this, perhaps, arises from a great portion of their time being spent in night watching, when, to beguile the hours, tales of mystery are frequently resorted to. Be this, however, as it may, this man's conversion was occasioned by an interposition which he deemed supernatural; and whilst we have on record the narrative of the conversion of Colonel Gardiner; and whilst we also admit the power, why should we deny the practice, of an interference by Omnipotence in our earthly concerns. The story he gave of himself was as follows:—He had been out seeking for pro-

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vender alone, and evening closed on him before he could reach our dwelling. The darkness perplexed him, and the ground which he had to cross being very uneven, and interspersed with many rocks and declivities, fear increased rather than decreased his powers of perception, and he became so much alarmed that he was totally unable to proceed. Here he first felt his own weakness; he hallooed loudly for help, but he was far out of hearing of our abode; and his own voice, re-echoed back, became to him a fresh source of alarm. Bereft of all human aid, and every moment adding to his fear, he at length called on the name of his Maker and Saviour, and implored that assistance from heaven, which, in derision, he had before so often scorned. He prayed now most fervently for deliverance; and suddenly, as he conceived, a light appeared around him, by which he was enabled to discover his path, and reach our hut in safety. So fully satisfied was he himself, that it was a miraculous interposition of Providence, that from that period he became quite another man; he never after contemned the bible, or derided our daily reading, but on the contrary was ever a most attentive listener; and this would not content him—for so eager was he to gain a knowledge of its truths, that he would often solicit some of us to read it to him, when we were not otherwise engaged, and which myself, as well as others, frequently did.

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He would, after some time, choose the portions of Scripture he preferred; and after I had read portions of the prophecies, he would request me to seek their corresponding fulfilment in the New Testament, and he would dwell with much satisfaction on those strong corroborations of Gospel truth. The merciful promises held out to sinners by faith in the Saviour, were also one of his most desirable subjects, and the numerous passages in which salvation is offered to all who would seek it through Christ, appeared to give him much delight. Such portions of Scripture as Psalm lv. 22. "*Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.*" Matthew xi. 28. "*Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" Acts xvi. 31. "*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.*" Luke xv. 7. "*Joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth.*" I. Tim. i. 15. "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*" These and other such like passages he would get by heart, and frequently refer to.

The late Mr. Jonathan Dymond, of Exeter, in his "Essays on the Principles of Morality," says "The British and Foreign Bible Society, during the 20 or 30 years that it has existed, has done more direct good in the world—has had a greater effect in meliorating the condition of the human species—

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than all the measures that have been directed to the same ends, of all the Prime Ministers in Europe during a century."

This statement, supported as it is by daily evidence, in every part of the world where the scriptures have travelled, (and they are now, thanks to that society, translated and printed in almost every known tongue) affords a most cheering prospect—and creates a hope that at no far distant period, its great moral truths will be implanted and practised in every part of the habitable globe.

It has been enquired of me, how it was that we did not make an attempt to join our shipmates on the other island. This was a subject we several times discussed, and a majority of voices being against it, the others acquiesced. The reasons urged were, that the prevailing winds, being most always to the westward, would have prevented our returning; we had also nothing in our island but what our shipmates possessed in greater plenty; we also anticipated that they might possibly make a trip to the island we were on, when the wind chanced to blow that way; but the strongest reason was, the boisterous state of the weather, and the frailty of our boat, which was by no means capable of standing a rough sea.

To return to my narrative—Being settled down into a somewhat more comfortable and regular life we had leisure to explore the other parts of the

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island, and to endeavour to add to our means of sustenance.

Great numbers of birds visit these islands. Of the King Penguins I have before spoken, but their flesh was not good for food. There were three other species of Penguins, named by Southseamen Macaroonys, Johnnys, and Rock Hoppers. The Macaroonys congregate in their rookeries in great numbers, frequently three or four thousand; they ascend very high up the hills, and form their nests very roughly among the cliffs and rocks; they are somewhat larger than a duck—they lay three eggs, two about the size of duck eggs, on which they sit, —the other is smaller, and is generally cast out of the nest, and we used to term it the pigeon's egg; for another bird which frequents these islands, almost in every respect resembling a pigeon, make their principal food of eggs, and would rob the nests to procure them, unless they found those cast out eggs, which most commonly satisfied them till the others by incubation were unfit for food. A similar practice we observed with the Rock Hoppers, but the Johnnys, like the King Penguins lay only one egg each, unless deprived of them.

The Johnnys build their nests superior to either of the others, among the long grass, sometimes high up the hills, and sometimes on the plains, but not in very numerous rookeries, seldom more than

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three or four hundred together. Those birds lay in winter as well as in summer, and by robbing their nests we kept them laying nearly all the year round.

We observed that when we robbed those which formed their nests on the plain, that they re-built their nests higher up. When we took the eggs of these birds, they would look at us most pitiously, making a low groaning noise, as if in great distress at the deprivation, but would exhibit no other kind of resistance, the king Penguins, however, would sometimes strike at us with their flippers and their blows were frequently severe.

The Rock Hoppers form their rookeries at the foot of high hills, and make their nests of stones and turf. They hop about from rock to rock, from whence they derive their name. This is the only species of Penguin that whistles; the King Penguins, as I before stated, halloo—and the Johnnys and Macaroonys make a sort of yawning noise.

One kind of bird which proved very valuable to us are called Nellys. They are larger than a goose, and resort to those islands in great numbers. They make burrows in the ground, and were very easily caught. These birds are so ravenous, that after we had killed a Sea Elephant, they would, in a few hours, completely carry off every particle of flesh we did not make use of, leaving the bones as clean as possible; but although they were thus useful,

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they were also very mischievous, for unless we kept a good look out, they would unroof our dwellings, for the sake of the skins of the Sea Elephants, with which we covered it. These birds congregate about one hundred together, make their nests in the long grass, and lay only one egg each. Their young became very good eating in March, and were highly esteemed by us. We never destroyed the old ones, fearing they would desert the island. The most useful of all the birds, however, which frequented these islands, was the Albatross. This bird is larger than a swan. They built their nests on the plains, and about two hundred in a rookery. They are so careful to preserve their nests dry, that if the ground is at all marshy, they raise their nest about two feet high, by digging a trench round, and throwing up the soil in the middle. Some of the old birds grow to a great size; we have measured their wings spread out at full length, and they have reached twelve feet from tip to tip. They lay about Christmas, only one egg each, but their eggs are very large, the shell holding about a pint. Their period of incubation is about three months. The young, when hatched, are covered with down, and they grow wing feathered about May; they were then excellent for the table, and provided us with a very good dish for a long period, as they did not fly off till December. With these also we used to act with prudence, fetching those at the greatest dis-

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tance in fine weather, and not interfering with those near home, unless the bad weather prevented our going far from our hut.

Besides the birds enumerated, there were a great variety of smaller kinds, nearly all of which formed their nests in holes in the earth, and were mostly night birds, so termed from their visiting the land principally at night, to avoid the larger birds, many of which preyed on these smaller ones, more particularly those called Sea Hens, which are about the size of our fowls, and are very destructive to the smaller birds, being armed with very sharp claws, and being also very ravenous. These birds also bred on the island, and we made use of both the old one and the young ones. When taking the young birds, the old ones would dart on us, and if not warded off with a stick, would inflict very severe wounds with their claws; on some occasions they have darted at us with such force as to impale themselves on a lance or sharp stick that we have held out to keep them off.

The smallest birds that visit these islands are about the size of a sparrow, and are called the King birds, in consequence of their being a match for any of the birds of prey. These King birds have a beak as sharp as a needle, and when any bird of prey approached them, being very quick on the wing, they dexterously alighted on its head, and by pecking at their foe with their sharp bills, soon caused

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the enemy to retreat; and when they had driven them to some distance from their nest, would leave them crying with their wounds.

The small birds we used to catch by lighting a blazing fire after dark with Sea Elephants blubber and dried grass, at the foot of some tolerably high cliff; this would attract them in quantities, and they would fly with such force against the rock as to stun themselves, and falling down we obtained a large supply. These consisted of Petrels, Blue Petrels, Black Eaglets, Night Hawks, Divers, and several others. Besides those we caught Teal or wild ducks; the latter used to swim about the small ponds, and then, by wading after them, we frequently caught a good supply; but this was by no means a pleasant sport, as it was only in the cold season that they were numerous.

From the details I have given, it might be supposed that our supply of food was far more abundant than we had occasion for, but I must state, that a large part was only to be procured by going a considerable distance; and the weather in these latitudes, as I have before observed, being extremely wet and tempestuous, it was not at all times that we could go to procure it. Our supply of salt too being very small, we could not preserve a stock on hand, as we had none but what we could procure by filling our frying pan with salt water and then evaporating it over a slow fire. In making our

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soup, we frequently used a part of salt water, to give it the necessary saltness to make it palatable. I may remind my readers too that there were seven mouths to fill; and having no bread or vegetables, the quantity of animal food we made use of was much larger than would be conceived by those who have never been deprived of the mucilaginous nourishment derived from such aliment. It will be recollected also, that our continual excursions, in all weathers, gave us rather strong powers of digestion, and our appetites were consequently pretty sharply set.

In the month of May I had a severe attack of rheumatism, my old complaint, and was confined to the hut many days.

It may not be out of place, to show the danger of our perambulations, to mention two instances, in which I had an almost miraculous escape from destruction. The first occurred in the month of June, 1821. I had been on a foraging excursion, and was returning laden with the skin of a large male Sea Elephant, which I had killed, and which weighed nearly a hundred weight, when I was benighted, and missing my path, I fell, with my load, over a cliff, about twelve feet deep; fortunately the skin was precipitated from my back, and falling under me, partly broke my fall; there being also a quantity of thick grass growing below, I escaped with only a few slight bruises, and reached home in

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safety. On the following day, when I visited the spot, I found that I had had indeed a narrow escape; for about six feet further to the right, the declivity was more than twenty feet, with a rocky bottom; and where, had I chanced to have fallen, nothing less than a miracle could have saved me.

In the October following, most of us were on a foraging excursion after Macaroony's eggs, when my companion, Jarvis Veale, brother of the commander, being a few yards in advance, picked up a Rock Hopper's egg; and this being rather unusual at so early a period, their time of laying not being till November, he stopped to make some remark, which not hearing for the noise of the Penguins, I stopped to listen and at that instant, a large portion of rock, weighing several tons, being accidentally loosened by some others of our party, foraging on a cliff above us, fell, with a tremendous crash, between me and Veale; and thus was I again most providentially saved.

Such escapes from the very jaws of death, made me often reflect on the kind mercy of that Almighty protector, who, while we were shut out from all human association, except among ourselves, was still present to guard us.

I may here also mention an accident which occurred to us in the month of July, which had liked to have been a very serious one. We were all

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asleep except Benjamin Baker, and he being aroused by the smell of fire, arose, and discovered that the wood we had formed into a mantel-piece had by some means caught fire, and was making a rapid progress towards the roof of our dwelling. He immediately alarmed us, and we lost no time in pulling down the burning materials, and our water brook being near, we soon extinguished the fire. Our beds being of dried grass, had not Baker been providentially awake, we all stood a good chance of being burnt to death. Again, however, we were preserved, and again it called forth our heartfelt acknowledgments to that Being to whom we had so often been indebted for the preservation of our lives.

There was another kind of danger to which we were exposed, namely, bog-holes; these were sometimes ten feet over, and eight or ten feet deep, filled with a soft slimy mud; we conjectured they were formed by the Sea Elephants, near marshy places, as we frequently found these animals in them. When benighted, we were obliged to go with great caution to avoid them, as there would have been little chance of our getting out, had we once fallen in.

Our table utensils were at first very scanty, we however contrived, after some time, to manufacture some wooden spoons; and of a keg we had saved, cut in two, we formed a pair of soup tureens, and

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after this we made some wooden trenchers. With these elegancies we considered ourselves provided with comforts of a superior description.

Besides the sea birds I have before mentioned there was a land bird on these islands, which Southseamen call pigeons, which I have before alluded to; they are quite white, and were so tame at our first landing, that we could easily catch them with our hands, but after a time they became shy, and we were obliged to snare them. This we effected by forming a running noose in some line we had manufactured from the rope yarn saved from the wreck; then placing some blubber near the loop, the pigeons were enticed within its circle, and then by pulling the end we caught them by the legs.

When we caught a young Seal, it made us a rare and delicious repast, but they were extremely scarce. Seal skins also, after a few months, were in considerable request with us, for articles of clothing, as those we used when wrecked were soon worn out, and we had no other resource but Seal skins to supply ourselves with others. I have before mentioned that I was fortunate enough to save a great coat; and when my other clothes were entirely worn out, I set to work to manufacture this single garment into a suit. We had sharpened a nail so as to make an awl, and the sinews of the Sea Elephant served us for sewing thread. I took out the

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lining of my said coat, and this, with some contrivance, I converted into a shirt; I then cut off the skirts, and with these I manufactured a pair of trousers, and the upper part served me for a jacket. Thus from one garment I procured both linen and outer clothing; but it may be conjectured that my wardrobe was not a very lasting one, particularly as I had no change; but I, like other folks who go abroad, kept this suit for my travelling excursions. With my utmost care, however, as my journies were pretty frequent, the weather boisterous, and the roads not M'Adamized, (this term I have learnt since my return) I could not keep in wearing trim any length of time, so was obliged to resort at last, with the rest, entirely to a Seal-skin costume, and for more than twelve months I was without even the comfort of a shirt. As we happened to have neither a barber or razors among us, the addition of long beards, to our Seal-skin dresses and fur caps, gave us any thing but a pleasing exterior; however, as we had not to come in contact with any of the fairer works of creation, we did not much study our appearance; and on the whole we formed as grotesque a group as could well be imagined.

The male Sea Elephants make their regular periodical appearance about the middle of August, and about the latter end of the same month they are up in great numbers, and range themselves

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along the beach, close to the water's edge. Very severe conflicts frequently take place among them for possession of the beach. The females come up to have young early in September, and continue to suckle them for about five weeks. When first brought forth, the young are quite black, and their skin beautifully glossy; this formed our most approved material for caps. All the old female Elephants returned to the sea about the middle of October, by which time they would have lost nearly all their fat, in suckling their young. The old male Elephants, and the young ones would now proceed inland, some as far as two miles, (as many as a hundred in a herd) and live together most amicably, till about the beginning of December, when both the old ones and the young ones would return to the sea; the old ones nearly reduced to skeletons, and the young ones by no means as fat as when they were left by their dams, as they do not make use of any food on shore, and this is rather a long fast. During the time the dams stay with them, the young ones grow amazingly, and become of a beautiful silver grey, similar to the seals. From December till the following August, the yearling and bull Elephants make these islands so general a resort that they are always to be found, and pretty plentifully; but the periods I have mentioned are those in which they make their regular visits.

Previous to our finding the pick-axe, we made a

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discovery, which was a matter of much conjecture among us, and for which we could no way satisfactorily account. I have before said that there was neither tree nor shrub on the island; but in the course of our foraging excursions, when above a mile from the reach of the tides, we found several trunks of trees, about fourteen feet long, and from fourteen to eighteen inches through, laying on the ground, as if thrown there by the sea; the distance from the water, however, rendered this impossible —and after our most sage consideration, we could not solve the difficulty, as to how they came there. The conclusion we came to was, that those islands were produced by some violent convulsion of nature (the great body of the island being composed of calcarious matter), and that at the period it took place, those trees were floating on the surface of the water, and were thrown up with the volcanic eruption. Should I procure any philosophical readers, they will, perhaps, smile at this wise conjecture, however, if it affords them amusement I shall be content. Be it as it may, it was a very acceptable boon, (though rather a cumbersome one) as we were at that time much in want of weapons, and the wood being close, heavy and hard, made very good clubs; and those we had before in use were many of them broken and disabled by our attacks on the Sea Elephants. To remove such of the trees as we wanted, we were obliged to split them

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up in several pieces on the spot; and this we effected by first making a small incision with pieces of iron hoop, formed into knives, and then with stone wedges rending them asunder. It may be readily conceived that this was a work of some magnitude and labour, but what will not necessity and industry accomplish.

I must now give some account of the party who were left on the other island previous to our being wrecked. I have before stated the reasons for our making no attempt to visit them.

It will be recollected that when we left the sealing party, on the 10th of March, it was our intention to return and supply them with fresh provisions at the end of eight days; but when at the expiration of that period, they found that we did not make our appearance, it was feared by them that our vessel had been wrecked—and those fears were corroborated by their perceiving pieces of wreck washed ashore on their island. They now as a matter of course considered that the vessel was lost, and that all hands on board had perished. They remained, however, at the spot where we left them for about six weeks; and at the end of this period, finding their means of living very scanty, they removed to another part of the island, where the means of providing for their stomachs were more plentiful. Their course of living was so much in accordance with ours, which I

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have before described, that it would be an useless repetition to state it. At the latter end of the year, in December, 1821, finding the seals very scarce, and other provisions scanty, they determined on visiting the island on which we were thrown, but without the least expectation of finding any remnants of the vessel, much less of meeting those they had long considered buried in the ocean.

They started in their boat very early on the 13th of the month, and reached our island about ten o'clock the same morning, fortunately landing in the very cove we had chosen for our residence; and the joy of all hands on meeting can much better be conceived than described. After some few days spent in mutual congratulations and enquiries, we entered into arrangements for our future conduct. The party had brought with them their kettle, frying-pan, and other implements, which added considerably to our stock of conveniences, and we continued to live together for a time.

It happened that one of the sealing party, when they went ashore, had taken a Bible with him, which on some previous occasion had been presented to him by the Bible Society, and that this book had also proved as valuable a friend to them as that given by Capt. Cox, had been to us; and it added considerably to our joy of meeting, that a unity of sentiment on the subject of our religious exercises

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prevailed among us, and that our daily reading was by no means interrupted, but rather more strongly enforced, by the addition to our number; and when I state that the boisterous state of the weather would sometimes confine us to our hut for two or three days together, the comfort afforded by such a resource will be much more fully conceived; and several now read the Sacred Scriptures with pleasure and profit who had scarcely looked into a Bible since the period they had left their school.

With what self-gratulation may the contributors to the British and Foreign, or the Seamen's Bible Society, read these simple facts; not in the spirit of self-pride, for the *end* was in the hand of a mightier Being, but in a spirit of humble thankfulness that the *means* to which they had been permitted to lend their aid, had been so fruitful in blessings to those so far out of the reach of all other relief from their fellow-creatures. This is a species of charity, which extendeth not only to the utmost parts of the earth, but will last to the end of time,—nay, even to eternity. Its benefits are beyond human calculation—Infinity only can trace them. Much more might be added—but I must confine myself merely to these few remarks, elicited by truths which came under my notice, and which, I trust, will be acceptable to my readers.

To return to my Narrative—there being now

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fifteen of us, we soon found that our utmost exertions, at this season, were scarcely sufficient to provide us with the means of sustenance; we however contrived, with the rings of some steels, in possession of the sealing party, and with the help of the sharpening stone, to manufacture some fish-hooks, and with the remains of some cordage, saved from the wreck, made some fishing lines, and by these contrivances we added to our means of livelihood. The fish we used to catch were much like the Gurnet, only somewhat larger—and they made a very pleasant change in our diet. I had forgotten to mention, that when we first took up our residence on the island, we had recourse to this kind of food. At that time we used to kill them with our clubs. Our practice was to take long strips of the Sea Elephant's blubber, and lay it close to the water's edge, and the fish were so tame that they would creep up the shelving rocks after the blubber, while we stood by and knocked them on the head. They had, however, in course of time, become so shy, that they were not to be taken in this way, our new contrivance, therefore, as a substitute for hooks, proved very useful; and fish, flesh, and fowl frequently smoked on our board at the same time.

I have before mentioned that we had found on the island a plant resembling a cabbage in appearance, but so bitter that we could not make use

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of it; our companions, on the other island, either using more sagacity, or more patience, had found in it a very useful vegetable; for by boiling it for three or four hours, it became quite sweet. By this information another addition was made to our bill of fare—and one too which, to us, so long deprived of vegetable diet, was indeed a a rich delicacy, and made to our soup a considerable improvement.

The chance of any vessel coming to our rescue, becoming apparently every day less and less, after the whole of us had been together about a month, it was proposed that we should attempt to construct a vessel, in the hope of being able to effect our deliverance.

Previous to this, and before we all again met, the chance of our ever being released from our sea-girt prison seemed so remote and impossible, that we had seriously resolved on the steps that should be pursued as we individually departed this life. Our burial place had been chosen, and as decent a funeral for each as our means afforded, was promised by the survivors; though a general wish was expressed by each, that he might not be the last who would have to perform this melancholy duty. The junction of our parties, however, gave a renewed spring to our energies, and after calculating the materials we possessed, we determined that our intended vessel should be about twenty-nine feet

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long, lugger-rigged, and about twelve tons burthen. The plans and specifications, after being duly weighed and considered, were agreed on unanimously; and we immediately set about the necessary preparations for commencing this arduous undertaking.

I have stated that we had dug up a quantity of timber from the remains of a hut erected by some Americans about sixteen years before;* and there was also traces of some huts built by them in the other Island; it was, therefore, determined that a party of eleven should go over to the other Island, for the purpose of digging up what timber might chance to be trodden into the ground there; and also to collect Seal skins, of which we intended to form our sails. They accordingly went, and in about a month returned, bringing with them the skins they had collected and prepared, the timber they had found, and also a tripot,† they had dug up. Our carpenter now reported that we should have materials enough for the proposed work, and we set about the preliminaries directly.

* We asertained the period by finding some tallies of skins, obtained by them, on which the date 1805, &c. was cut; and at this period it appeared that the Seals were in great plenty, for their tallies were very numerous; we found many even in our cursory search.

† This is a vessel holding about thirty gallons, and used by South-seamen in preparing oil from the blubber of the Sea Elephants.

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We manufactured saws out of the iron hoops, and the carpenter contrived several other tools, though none of them calculated to forward our work with much speed. We soon found too, from the supply of provisions we could obtain, that it was necessary we should divide; and five of us, including myself, Captain Veale, his brother Jarvis Veale, John Soper, and Dominick Spesinick, proceeded to the other island, to seek a livelihood there. We were provided with a share of the necessaries, among which was the piece of the broken pitch-pot, which had served for a frying pan, &c. We took also with us the bible which had belonged to one of the crew, leaving the other with our companions.

After our departure, the ten that were left proceeded to construct another house of stones and turf, as the wood used in the first was required for the building the vessel; and this dwelling, when it was finished, had at least the appearance of more comfort, for they formed three chimneys in it, but from some misconstruction they would not draw, and a hole, for the escape of the smoke, was obliged to be made in the gable end. After the new habitation was completed, the old one was pulled down, and the place where it stood cleared, as the most convenient spot for building our vessel, and they then set about it in good earnest.

It had been agreed, that when completed, five of

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our party, to be chosen by lot, should proceed to sea in her, in the *hope* either of meeting with some vessel, or of reaching some habitable part of the globe, and thereby be the means of rescuing the remainder. When it is considered that these islands are situated in the midst of the Southern Ocean, that we had neither compass, quadrant, or chart, it must certainly appear a *forlorn hope*; however, we determined to make the attempt, trusting to that Power which hitherto had so kindly watched over us, and who alone could be our guide on such a desperate voyage.

Six of our companions accompanied us in the boat to the other island, and remained with us while we constructed ourselves a dwelling, and then, having collected all the spare timber, they left us to return to the building of the vessel.

The tripot which we found was now put in requisition for the manufacture of salt, which was effected by filling it with salt water, and boiling it till all the water was evaporated, when the salt remained at the bottom. This salt was required for curing the bull Elephant's tongues, which was intended to serve as a sea stock of provisions for the party who should sail in the vessel, when completed.

Being now settled in our new colony, at least for a time, and being somewhat more expert than at first in catering, we agreed to take it by turns to

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search for our food, always keeping the Sabbath as a day of rest, and devoted to reading the scriptures and other religious exercises.

Shortly after I had been on this island, the remnants of my suit of clothes, manufactured from my great coat, became totally unfit for use, notwithstanding all my care and patchwork, so I was obliged to set to to make some garments from the skins of pup Elephants and Seals, and although my tailoring might not have satisfied a lounger of Bond-street, it was at least a novel costume; and I can assure my readers, that it needed some contrivance. Our mode of sewing I have before alluded to, and it was rather a tedious process. Stay tape and buckram we dispensed with, and our stitching was not perhaps the most exquisite. For buttons we used pieces of wood, of about an inch long, tapered at each end, with a notch cut round the middle to hold the fastening, and in this way we prepared our wardrobes. My greatest difficulty was in providing for linen; I, however, attempted to act the sempstress, and made myself a shirt from the skins of young Seals, but the laborious exercise we underwent in travelling for food, causing profuse perspiration, and the skins not having undergone any preparation, they soon became rotten, so I did not again resume my *plain work*, but contented myself without any substitute for linen, and had none

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from that time till the period of our final deliverance.

As one of our boats was ripped up to line the vessel, we had none with us on the other island, so we had no opportunity of visiting our companions during the progress of their labour, and they were too much engaged in their several occupations, to be enabled to spend any time in visits of etiquette; we held no communication therefore with them during the period their work was in progress, and the time consequently hung very heavy upon us, at least those hours not devoted to the supply of our natural wants; and had we not had that most cheering of all resources, the Scriptures, despair would in all probability have taken possession of our minds, harrassed as we were by delayed hopes, numerous fears, and idle conjectures; and much did we envy those who were engaged in the building of the vessel.

To enumerate the various shifts to which they were put, and the contrivances they resorted to, in the course of their ship-building, would, I fear, too much lengthen my pages; but when the paucity of their tools are considered, the ill assorted nature of their materials conjectured, and the unskilfulness of most of the labourers taken into account, it will not be wondered at, even with every incentive that the hope of deliverance presented, that it was not until the following January, 1823, that the vessel was in a fit state for launching.

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During this period also, it will be remembered, they had to manufacture the salt, and to cure the necessary provision for the proposed voyage. Numerous also were the impediments our companions experienced, sometimes from bad weather, at others from the breaking of a tool, or the want of some almost indispensible article which we had not at first calculated on, but which, as they proceeded, became obvious. Their ingenuity was constantly on the rack to supply those deficiencies; but time and perseverance surmounted every obstacle. The want of pitch and oakum was much felt; for the former they had no substitute, and for the latter they used Seal-fur mixed with Albatross down. The rigging was made from the ropes taken on shore by the sealing party, and which are used by persons in such employ, to raft off the Seal-skins procured to the boats, as the surf on the beaches prevents their landing to load, either with safety or convenience.

By the beginning of January the vessel was completed by our ten companions who remained at the other island; and they had equipped her with sails of Seal-skin, and other necessaries; they had also formed vessels for taking a stock of fresh water, from the skins of pup Elephants; and water, salt tongues, and Penguin eggs, were the only provisions that could be provided. A party of seven then came over to us, in order that we might re-

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turn with them to assist in launching her, and to cast lots which five should venture on this almost hopeless voyage.

Two years had now nearly rolled over our heads, since we were wrecked; and this period, marked as it was by privations and anxieties, appeared three times as protracted as any other period of my life.

When the party landed we were from home, and dispersed in different directions seeking for provender, and they had to search for us. This occupied so much time that before we were all collected it was too late to make the return voyage that day. The next day a violent gale of wind sprung up, and our boat being hauled up in an exposed situation, the wind took her, and carried her to a distance of seventy yards, and so damaged her that she was rendered unseaworthy, her stern being completely beat in. Although the boats used in those voyages are not heavy, yet this will give some idea of the force of the winds on those islands, and of the nature of the storms we had frequently to encounter, and that too, in many instances, when we were some miles from our domicile.

This accident threw a great damp on our spirits as we were very destitute of materials wherewith to repair the damage, and should we be enabled to succeed in doing so, it would require many days to complete it. The ways of Providence, however,

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are wonderful, and past finding out, for when the greatest disasters befal us, then it is that the hand of the Almighty is stretched out to help and save us; and in the strength and wisdom of the Lord we are shown our own weakness and ignorance. Without tools, and with but very indifferent means we toiled many days to render our boat sea-worthy, and about the 21st of the month had so far effected our purpose, that we determined to return on the following day. About noon, however, while most of us were busily employed in preparing for our meal, in scalding the skin of a bull elephant, with some flippers, &c., Dominick Spesinick, who was an elderly man, left us to take a walk; he proceeded to a high point of land about three parts of a mile distant from our hut, and at the moment he reached it, he saw a vessel passing round the next point. He immediately came running towards us apparently in great agitation, and when he approached, for some time he could do nothing but gesticulate, excess of joy having completely deprived him of the power of utterance. Capt. Veale, who was with us, not comprehending his meaning, asked what the foolish fellow was at? and he having by this time a little recovered himself, told us that he had certainly seen a vessel pass round the point of the island, and named the direction she was steering. We had so often been de-

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ceived by the appearance of large birds sitting on the water, which we had mistaken for vessels at a distance, that we were slow to believe his story; he however affirmed it with so much earnestness, that in accordance with his suggestion, it was agreed that one of our party, John Soper, should go with him, taking a direction across the island, so that they might, if possible, intercept the vessel, if there really was one steering in the direction he had stated; and being supplied with a tinder-box, in order to make a fire, to attract the notice of the crew, should they gain sight of her, off they started.

The hours passed very slowly away during their absence, and when night approached, and they were not returned, a thousand conjectures were started to account for their stay. Some suggested, that having seen the vessel, they had got on board, and had left those remaining to their fate; others more charitably concluded, that being worn out in pursuing what was doubtless only a phantom of the old man's brain, had been unable to return from fatigue, but that morning would bring them back with bitter disappointment. Morning at length came, after a tedious night—not one of us had enjoyed what might be called repose—some had not closed their eyes, whilst the others who had caught a few minutes sleep, had been disturbed by fitful dreams, and awakened only to hear the sighings of disappointed hopes, and dire forebodings that

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we were doomed to drag out our existence without the least chance of a deliverance.

To return to our two companions who had gone in search of the vessel, they had indeed been fortunate enough to reach that part of the island in which she was still in sight; and by finding the remains of a Sea Elephant that had been recently killed, they ascertained that the crew had been on shore, and they hastened to kindle a fire; but finding they could not attract the attention of those in the vessel from the beach, they proceeded with all haste to ascend a hill in the direction she was still steering. Spesinick however became exhausted, partly by fatigue, and partly by his over-excited feelings, and was unable to proceed further. Soper went on, but seeing the vessel proceeding, he sunk on the ground in despair. He however again rose, but had to descend into a valley before he could gain another elevated spot to make a signal from. Spesinick, returning to the beach where they had kindled the fire, to his great joy saw a boat from the vessel coming on shore. The crew had reached the beach before Spesinick got to it, but his voice had been drowned by the noise of a rookery of Macarooneys he had disturbed on the hill. Seeing the fire, the smoke of which had first attracted their attention, they of course were convinced that there were human beings on the island, and had commenced a search; in the interim Spesinick

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had made for the boat, which they had hauled up out of the surf, and having reached it he clung to it in a fit of desperate joy, that gave him the appearance of a savage maniac; and the crew on returning after what had appeared to them a vain search, found him in such questionable guise, that they hailed him lustily before they approached. Dressed in shaggy fur skins, with caps of the same material, and beards of nearly two years growth, it was not probable they should take him for a civilized being. They soon, however, became better acquainted, and he gave them an outline of the shipwreck, the number of men on the island, and that his companion Soper was not far off.

The vessel proved to be an American schooner called the *Philo*, Isaac Perceval, master, on a sealing and trading voyage.

Soper being still unaware of the boat having gone on shore, as it must have done so while he was crossing the valley, on coming to a place where on a foraging excursion, we had erected a shelter at the opening of a cave, he set the place on fire, and the boat which had returned with Spesinick put off and took him on board also, much to his joy and gratification. By this time it was near dark, and too late to send or make any communication to us on that evening, but on the following morning, January 22, the captain of the schooner sent his boat to fetch off the remaining ten. It being,

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however, eight miles from our residence, where our companions got on board, it took some time for the boat to reach the place, it was therefore past ten o'clock in the forenoon before she came in sight of us.

We had by this time almost given up all hopes of our expected deliverance, and had gone to a neighbouring King Penguin rookery, to gather all the eggs we could collect, to take over to the other island, as part of a sea stock for those on whom the lot should fall to attempt our rescue in our new-built vessel, as there were no King Penguin rookeries on the other island.

Shortly after ten, a shout from one of our companions, Millichant, aroused our attention, and we soon perceived the American schooner's boat coming round the point. Down went the eggs, some capered, some ran, some shouted, and all in one way or other expressed an extravagance of joy, and three loud cheers from us, were quickly answered by those in the boat.

Scarcely a month during the year was it sufficiently smooth for a boat to land on the beach adjoining the rookery where we were collecting eggs, but at this time it was perfectly calm; and on the boat nearing the land, we all rushed into the water up to our middle, and taking hold of her on each side, run her up the sand, high and dry, crew and all.

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Here I cannot help breaking off in my narrative, to remark on the providential nature of our succour. The damage done to our boat, had, as I have before remarked, caused us much distress, but now how different were our views of the accident; that which we had deemed the greatest evil that could have befallen us, had now proved the very means of our rescue from these desolate islands; and that which we looked upon as almost a death-blow to our hopes, had proved through Divine Providence, the greatest blessing; for had our boat not been damaged, our return to the other island would have followed as a matter of course; and, in all probability, we should never have seen the vessel that now proved the means of our deliverance, and we might have continued to linger on an existence, lost to our native land, and mourned as dead by our relatives and friends. How vain then, and even sinful, are too frequently our murmurings at the Divine Will! How short-sighted and ignorant are our complaints when our weak purposings are frustrated. Where, then, is our boasted wisdom, where the exercise of those reasoning powers with which we are endowed. "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib," but we, in the plenitude of our self knowledge, and in the pride of our own sagacity, fail to distinguish the hand of our all powerful, all wise, and all merciful Lord; forgetting that we are his creatures, and un-

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der his protecting care, and that all things work together for good, to those who believe in Him.

To resume my story. In the Schooner's boat, besides our two companions, were the first officer or chief mate Mr. Hopkins, of Boston, and five of the crew of the schooner; and this officer, on learning from us that it was the wish of all to leave the island, requested us to get together whatever things we wished to take with us; and which having done, he took us all in the boat, and returned with us to the vessel.

When on board the Captain treated us very kindly, and gave us all some refreshment, and this was the first time I had tasted bread for near two years. Being so long unused to such food, and partly perhaps from the effect of some spirits he also gave us, it made me so extremely ill, that I began to fear that I had only escaped from desolation to meet death; however, I soon recovered, and on the following day, being the 23rd, the Captain steered for the other island, but as she neared it at a distance from the cove where our three companions were remaining, they did not see her approach, and on our coming in sight of them in the schooner's boat, they considered it was our boat returned with all hands to assist in the launch of the vessel, and this caused them considerable joy, for the long period the boat had been away had created many conjectures, not knowing how to account for its

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protracted stay; their joy, however, was much more increased, when they perceived that she was a stranger; and it arose to its full height, when they learnt that the Captain of the American had consented to take us all on board his ship. They soon collected together what Seal skins we had saved, and all the other materials we deemed necessary to take with us, and we all fifteen again met together on board the vessel, in good health, and I need scarcely add, in good spirits. Indeed our health had been generally good throughout the time we had been on the islands, except occasionally, when from the oily nature of our food, our bowels became affected, and then a good dose of salt water pretty generally set us to rights again. On one occasion, however, Jarvis Veale was attacked with a cutaneous complaint, of a very peculiar nature. Red pimples first appeared on his skin, in small patches, and afterwards spread all over his body, causing him most excruciating pain. These pimples subsequently turned purple, afterwards lost their colour, and went off in a dry scurf. An application to the contents of our usual medicine chest, (*i. e.* salt water) was his resource, and by drinking a considerable quantity every other morning for about ten days, he quite recovered. I was next attacked with a similar complaint, and it was feared that it was contagious, and would spread through all hands. I resorted to the same remedy

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as Veale, and with similar success, and whether it was really contagious or not I will leave to be disputed by the doctors, and if they disagree, why let them, I will not pretend to decide the controversy. I had made Veale's complainings a source of amusement before I was myself attacked; but he had his laugh in turn, for a more painful visitation I never experienced; indeed the pain caused by the eruption was almost unbearable, though apparently it was little more than a trifling rash.

I did not go on shore to see the vessel our companions had built, so can only speak of her from the description given me by those who had been engaged on the work, and who reported her as being a very tidy craft, taking into account the limited means they could command for her building and fitting; and it was with some regret that they left her on the stocks. Should it, however, happen that any other unfortunate crew, like ourselves, should be thrown on this desolate spot, it will, while in existence, serve as a memento of our industry and perseverance, and perhaps inspire them with a similar spirit.

On the day following that on which we embarked on board the vessel, Capt. Perceval made up his mind to visit the islands of Amsterdam and St. Paul, in the Indian Ocean, and which are about 1100 miles to the north-east of the Crozets.

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The day of departure now arrived, and after remaining on these islands one year, ten months, and five days, we bade them adieu,—shall I say with great joy? certainly; and yet I felt a mixture of regret. Whether it arose from the perverseness of my nature, or from any other cause, I must leave to those more capable of tracing the workings of human feelings, I can only say so it was. We all, however, felt the pleasure of hope, and already, in anticipation, we were enjoying a meeting with our friends and relatives, though to some of us those hopes were never realised, and to others, among them myself, many years elapsed before we again visited the land of our fathers, or the place of our birth.

The intention of the American captain, in going to the islands I have named, was to procure Sealskins and fish, the latter being extremely plenty around their shores, and the Seals were also supposed to be numerous. He solicited us to assist him in sealing and fishing, and then promised that he would take us to the Isle of France, to which we readily agreed.

We arrived off these islands on the 3rd of February, and in the usual manner commenced the business of sealing and fishing, and our endeavours here for the American captain were much more successful than our labours on the Crozets, the Seals being much more plentiful, though not equal

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in quality, the fur not being near so thick—and the coast abounding with fish; and finding it was likely to repay him for his trouble and delay, he continued at St. Paul's and at Amsterdam until the 1st of April, which was a month longer than the time he had named as his intended stay; we however continued to labour for him very assiduously, and in this period had collected about 5000 Seal-skins, and 300 quintals of fish. It was while at this island, on the 14th of February, that I, with the others, first got disencumbered of our beards, the weather being now warmer, but we still felt the cold considerably in consequence of our loss.

In the latter end of March, Soper and Newbee expressed a desire to remain on one of the islands, Amsterdam, to seal and fish for themselves, and to take the chance of any other vessel that might touch there, those islands being situated in the direct track of all ships going from the Cape of Good Hope to New South Wales, or Van Dieman's Land. To this the captain agreed, with the proviso that they would sign a document, stating that it was by their own desire they were so left, and they were in consequence left on the island of Amsterdam, in which there is a bar harbour and convenient landing.

This island contains an immense crater of a volcano, and in the neighbourhood of this crater there were several fresh water mineral springs

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continually boiling, in which any food requiring to be dressed might be cooked with very little trouble, and without the use of a kettle. This was convenient, as there were no Sea Elephants on these islands and consequently no stock of blubber for firing, and there being no wood on Amsterdam island their fuel consisted only of turf. The soil in this island was good, and there were wild hogs in great plenty.

The captain of the schooner having taken on board a supply of water at Amsterdam, for his voyage to the Isle of France, set sail on the 25th of March, for the Island of St. Paul, where we arrived on the following day, and the vessel remained off this island till the 1st of April, taking on board a quantity of wood, with some hogs, for a sea stock. On this day a very serious quarrel took place between our mate, Mazora, and the captain of the schooner, in consequence of the former having complained of the American captain's conduct, in not providing us with any clothing, notwithstanding we had laboured so assiduously for him, adding a threat that he would report him to the authorities at the Isle of France on our arrival. This being stated to the captain of the schooner, he declared that Mazora should not remain in his vessel, and ordered him to be put on shore on the Island of St. Paul. This caused a great sensation in the ship, and words

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arose so high, that I almost feared a mutiny by our hands would have been the consequence, and as we were the larger number, the result to the American's crew might have proved serious, and it might also have placed us ultimately in an awkward predicament; it ended however in nine of us declaring, that if the captain of the schooner would not alter his determination, we would accompany Mazora on shore, and remain with him on the island; for having suffered so long together, we were resolved not to leave him to pine in solitude alone, or perhaps to perish without a companion or a friend. These islands too, as I have before stated, being in the direct course of numerous vessels, there was little doubt of our being taken off by some other ship, at no very distant period. The captain kept his word, and we kept ours, and ten of us went on shore again to cope with the difficulties and privations which such a situation presented, and three only went off in the schooner. These three were Captain Veale, his brother, Jarvis Veale, and Petherbridge. The American captain gave us a cask of bread and some other necessaries.

The resolution we had taken may appear surprising to my readers, but it will be recollected that a little delay was the only privation we were likely to feel, as we had not procured any great addition to our comforts. We had not received

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even a supply of clothes, had laboured unceasingly since we had reached those islands, and our only reward appeared to be a passage to a land of strangers, where, when arrived, we should be in complete destitution. On the other hand, the Seals being, according to anticipation, rather plentiful here, by remaining for some time it was probable we should procure a quantity of skins sufficient to pay for a passage to New South Wales or to the Cape of Good Hope, and most likely sufficient also to provide us with necessaries when we arrived at either of these places.

We found a house built to our hands, by persons who had before been on this island killing Seals, and it was in tolerable condition—though not perhaps what could be called in tenantable repair by a lessee in England; but as we had not to pay either rent or taxes, we did not consider it requisite to find much fault.—On this island there was an abundance of wood, although on the island of Amsterdam there was not a tree, so that we stood in no want of fuel. The wild Hogs were numerous, and these, with the chance of fish and birds, bid fair to keep us from want. The climate too was far more favourable than at the Crozets, there being little or no winter at St. Paul's and Amsterdam.

The number of Seals we found, by no means answered our expectations, and we were subjected

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to a very great annoyance from innumerable quantities of mice. I began to think we were in the country where Whittington sent his cat, and was about to count the chance of profit that might arise from a cargo of the feline race being sent here, but I soon found that there were no princely inhabitants to reward such a venture.

The mornings during the time we were on this island were cold, and the mice would then be laying in heaps in a dormant state, apparently dead, but as soon as the rays of the sun reached them, they would as it were swarm into life; and although we endeavoured to shrink them, by destroying immense quantities, yet we could observe no apparent diminution of their numbers. These animals rendered our stay here by no means comfortable, and we began to think we had made "April fools" of ourselves by determining, on "All Fools Day," to remain. We could neither keep our clothes, our provisions, or our Seal skins out of their reach, and we were even afraid of being attacked ourselves in our sleep, for the warmth and shelter afforded by our habitation was a great inducement for them to visit us, particularly at night.

One very disagreeable annoyance we experienced from these *petit* intruders was, that we frequently found them in our food; for as our house was a circular building, thatched with the

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long grass, with a hole in the middle for a chimney, while running about the thatch they would occasionally fall into our cookery, and by no means improved our soup. On one occasion I had myself the gratification of mistaking one of them for a small bird, and had bit it in two before I discovered my mistake. There were fowls on this island much resembling those common in England, but we found them extremely shy, and having no arms or ammunition, we could only catch one now and then by stratagem; but it was very cheering to us to hear the cocks crow in the morning, as it associated in our minds the ideas of our native land.

There were King Penguin rookeries on this island also, but it was not the season for procuring eggs. We had also Molymocks, Peeos, Night Hawks, &c.

We caught five Hogs, and kept them alive in a cave adjoining our dwelling, feeding them on the mice we were able to heap together and kill while they lay dormant; and those Hogs we kept as a sort of reserve stock, either for our own use, or to take with us in case of meeting a vessel to give us a passage.

We were obliged to use some address to take those Hogs. We had first to kill a Seal, and having skinned it, leave the body in their track; several of them would soon get round it, and eagerly

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commence eating the carcase, and while thus employed, one of us would approach quietly behind them, and having seized one by the leg, hold it on till our companions in waiting came up, and either secured or dispatched it.

There were immense numbers of Craw-fish around this island, and by tying a piece of pork to a line, and throwing it into the sea, we could catch any quantity we desired, as they would attach themselves to it in numbers, and we had only to pull them up. We did not often make use of them, as the American captain had provided us with a fishing line and hooks, and this gave us an opportunity of always procuring a supply of preferable fish.

We discovered on the island two goats, male and female, with two kids; and those we considered had been left on the island by the previou occupants of our house.

Our bread lasted us only till the 12th of May, and we were then obliged again to live solely on animal food and fish, with the exception of turnip-tops, which we procured from a small plot of turnips, the seed for which must have been sown by some previous occupants. The turnips, however, were too small for use, but the tops we boiled up in our soup.

We saw several vessels pass the island, and made signals to them, but they either did not se e

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them, or the wind was too boisterous for them to land; the hope of deliverance thus frequently raised, doubtless caused us to feel much more anxious for the means of leaving this island than we had even felt at the Crozets.

I ought to mention that here also we continued our Bible reading, and other religious exercises, (having with us the Bible presented by Captain Cox) and that it was still the harbinger of peace to us! the other Bible we left with our two companions on the island of Amsterdam, and doubtless with equal temporal benefit, during their short existence, and we may hope to their eternal happiness, for their lives were cruelly sacrificed, as will hereafter be stated.

On the 3rd of June, at day-break, as seven of us were laying in our hut, (three of our number being out on a sealing party for a few days) and were expressing our wish to remove from the island, being heartily tired of our semi-savage life, one who lay opposite the door, and facing the sea, started up saying he perceived a vessel in the offing, upon which we all immediately arose and ran out, and indeed saw a vessel, but she was at a considerable distance from us; we however kindled a large fire, and at length, to our joy, perceived that she was nearing the land. As the wind was blowing fresh, and rather off the land, she could not approach that day; but on the fol-

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lowing morning, it proving very fine, she approached the rocks as near as possible, but had no boat to send ashore to us. They were however near enough for us to hail them, and we learnt that she was from the Cape of Good Hope, and bound to Van Diemen's Land. We now set to to construct a raft of spars, and in a short time (our will going hand in hand with our work) we made one sufficiently strong for two of us to go off on. This work occupied so much of the day, that we could not take any further measures that night; but on the following morning, the master of the sloop, for such she proved to be, came on shore, and then we learnt that she was a tender to the *King George* whaler, which latter vessel was commanded by Mr. Charles Bryant, and that she had parted from the *King George* on her passage from the Cape. The sloop was commanded by Mr. Anderson, who was first officer of the *King George*, and was only 28 tons burthen. He informed us it had been previously agreed, that should they lose sight of each other, they were to steer for the islands of Amsterdam and St. Paul, and there again meet; that in acquiescence to this agreement, they had been at Amsterdam, but not finding the *King George* there, had come over to St. Paul's, but without finding her.

While at Amsterdam, three days previous, *i. e.* June 1st, they had had communication with our

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two companions, Soper and Newbee, they having come off to the sloop, in a kind of boat they had formed by nailing a few boards together, and Soper having expressed a strong desire to leave the island, being in anticipation of some property left him by his grandmother at Dartmouth,* the commander of the sloop had agreed to take him. As they had however procured a number of skins, and had 10 pigs, Newbee would persist in remaining, and Soper, notwithstanding his hopes, would not let him remain alone. This resolve proved fatal for both, for they had not proceeded very far towards the shore, when in crossing the bar, their frail boat was swamped, and they were both left to the mercy of the waves. There was at this time another vessel laying within hail, and Mr. Anderson repeatedly called to them to send their boat to the rescue of the two poor fellows, who were for some time struggling for life, and imploring assistance. To the eternal disgrace however of the commander, he replied that his boats had cost him too much to risk them, and with an oath declared that they should not stir an inch, although at the same time they were fishing near, and our two unfortunate companions soon sank to rise no more.

In accordance to my resolve, when I commenced these pages, I forbear to give the name of this in-

* Since my return to Dartmouth, I have learnt that Soper's grandmother had died, and the property had gone to a distant relative.

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human monster, for little less could he be, who would coolly witness the death struggles of two fellow creatures, and refuse them that assistance which was at his immediate command; yet such was the account given us by Mr. Anderson; and the benevolence and kindness we afterwards experienced from him is a full voucher for the truth of the information.

Arthur Casely, now of Brixham, belonging to one of the fishing craft, was on board the *Success*, and witnessed this brutal conduct—and with whom I have conversed on the subject since my return.

Mr. Anderson, from the state of his provisions, could not take more than three of us, and he proposed that we should cast lots for the chance, and this was done by the seven who were present, the others not having returned. Seven pieces of paper, cut all one size, with the letter P. on three of them, were put into a bag and shook up. The prizes were drawn by myself, Baker, and Piller; the two latter, however, fearing to embark in so small a vessel for so long a voyage, gave up their chances to William Hooper and John Waltens,*

* It is somewhat remarkable that Walters recognised the *Success* to be an old acquaintance, she having been built in South Georgia some years before, and he being there, had helped to rig her out. This made him anxious to go in her, and he felt

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and we immediately prepared to go on board, taking with us our share of the Seal-skins collected, three out of the five pigs, what water Mr. Anderson could stow, and as much fire wood as he thought necessary. We then bade our companions farewell, and set sail. This was on the evening of the 5th of June.

The crew of the sloop consisted of the commander, Mr. Anderson, and seven men, and with us three made eleven. Mr. Anderson, therefore put himself to great inconvenience even to take three, more particularly as our voyage turned out extremely boisterous, and also as it took us thirty-six days before we reached the river Derwent.

Ten days before our arrival in the river, our fuel was entirely spent, and during the remainder of the time, what animal food we made use of we were obliged to eat raw, and our provisions and water also became very short, so that we were all obliged to be put on short allowance, a 4lb. piece of pork being divided amongst the eleven daily; and three days before our arrival we had only a small quantity of bread dust remaining, which was also allowanced out amongst us very sparingly; added to this the scurvy broke out among us; I was myself so ill in it, that although I

much disappointed at not drawing a prize. South Georgia is an island in the Pacific Ocean, frequented for Elephant Oil. It is situated in lat. 54 deg. 32 min. south, long. 36deg. 11 min. west

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was pressed with hunger to a great degree, I could not venture on the raw salt pork.

To our great joy, on the 7th of July, we made the western coast of Van Diemen's Land, and on the following night we saw the fires of the natives, but we were afraid to land, and it was not until the 11th, at day-light in the morning, that we entered the river Derwent, and were boarded by Mr. James Kelly, the Pilot, who, soon brought us to an anchor in Sulivan's Cove, Hobart Town. We were then boarded by Dr. E. F. Brombley, port officer.

It was a matter of great astonishment to the inhabitants of Hobart Town, how, in such a small craft, and with such a protracted and boisterous voyage, we ever arrived safe, so small a vessel never before having been known to make such a trip; but the never failing hand of the Almighty was over us, and nothing is impossible with him.

On going ashore at Hobart Town, Dr. E. F. Brombley, took us to his house, and treated us with great humanity, paying us every attention our weakness from the scurvy required, and in all other respects acting the Good Samaritan. Up to our arrival we had nothing to cover us but our Seal-skin clothes, and our appearance attracted considerable curiosity.

Our first introduction to Mr. Brombley was in consequence of his having in his employ a man named Richard Sands, who had been sentenced to 14

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years transportation for an attack on some revenue officers, on the coast of Cornwall, about the year 1819, and who recognised Hooper as an old shipmate on board the *Albion*, 74, during the late American war.

The *King George* whaler, to which the sloop *Success* was a tender, did not arrive until ten days after us, and Captain Bryant was much astonished at finding the sloop there before him. He also had had a very boisterous passage, had shipped many heavy seas, and his vessel was in a very leaky condition when she reached Hobart Town; whilst the sloop had floated over the sea like a cork, and kept perfectly dry.

Mr. Anderson being the only person of the crew who knew navigation, I assisted him in keeping the ship's way, and for which service, though doubly paid by his kindness, he expressed his warm acknowledgments.

Our Seal skins were purchased of us, or rather disposed of, by a person to whom we were introduced, and who considered us well paid, at about half the money he made of them, pocketing about £30. by the transaction. But here again I shall throw a veil over the page, for where I cannot praise I forbear to censure.

The day after our arrival in Hobart Town, a most extraordinary circumstance occurred, and which would almost supply an incident for a

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romance: the *Elizabeth*, Captain Dacres, arrived from England, and on board of her Mr. Brooks, one of the owners of the *Princess of Wales*, the vessel in which we sailed from England, and in which we were cast away; Dr. Brombley, with his usual hospitality, had invited the captain and Mr. Brooks to dine with him, and in the course of the evening's conversation, Mr. Brooks mentioned, that he had above two years before, given up a vessel as lost in the South Seas, which had sailed from the Thames in May, 1820. The coincidence immediately struck Dr. Brombley, and he said that he really believed he had, at that time, some of the crew of the identical vessel under his roof.

We were retired to rest, but on the following morning, Mr. Brooks again called, and soon convinced himself that Dr. Brombley's conjecture was correct. Mr. B. was not more astonished than pleased, at thus meeting so unexpectedly those whom he had so long considered lost, more particularly as it afforded him an opportunity of proving the loss of the vessel, and thereby recovering the insurance, both on her and her cargo.

We gave him a full and correct narrative of all that had befallen us, and on the Monday following, that day being Saturday, we accompanied him to the office of A. W. H. Humphrey, Esq., who was then the Chief Police Magistrate, and swore

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to the protest of the loss of the *Princess of Wales.*

Dr. Brombley set on foot a subscription for us, heading it with his own name for one pound, to which Mr. Brooks added two more, and Captain Dacre thirty shillings; but only two pounds besides these sums were raised for us.

This want of charity in the gentlemen of Hobart Town, I should have passed over, but the contrast afforded by those I have named, in justice demanded its notice; it is also just that I should add, from my subsequent knowledge, that a very great improvement in this respect has taken place since that period; and also in justice I must further add, that that improvement owes its advance, in a great measure, to a gentleman whose name will ever stand high in that colony, as the promoter of every benevolent and praiseworthy institution, I mean His Excellency Colonel George Arthur; and I feel proud at being thus able to bear my humble testimony to his universally acknowledged worth.

Captain Dacre very kindly offered us all berths on board his ship, but John Walters only went with him, having a wife in London, and feeling anxious to return.

Poor Walters I afterwards met in Van Diemen's Land, on his return thither, as boatswain on board the *Elizabeth*, Captain Collins, and learnt from

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him, that on his arrival in London, and going to see his wife, he found her married to another, so he gave up his prior claim, and again set sail, considering the ocean, after all the tricks it had played him, a less fickle mistress, than, to say the least, his somewhat impatient rib. In justice however to Mrs. Walters, (for I am sure it would be most ungallant for me throw a shadow of undeserved blame on the fair sex, when I have avoided casting just censure on the lords of the creation,) I must state, that she did not take this step without advising with the owners of, and others connected with, the *Princess of Wales*, nor until she considered herself fully assured of the vessel and all her crew being lost. Walters, and Spesinick, the Italian, who had married at Rotherhithe, were the only married men who went out in our unfortunate vessel.

Myself and Hooper remained at Dr. Brombley's till the latter end of August, when Hooper shipped himself as second officer on board the brig *Thalia*, Capt. Hazard, on a whaling voyage; and both Hooper and Capt. Hazard wished much for me also to join the ship, but I preferred remaining in Van Diemen's Land.

It was now necessary that I should resolve on some employ, and about the middle of September, being perfectly recovered from the attack of scurvy, I hired a boat from Mr. W. A. Bethune,

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of about four tons burthen, and commenced trading in fire wood, which I used to fetch from a distance up the river, and dispose of at Hobart Town. I gave one pound a week for the loan of this boat, but finding my profits not sufficient to cover my expences and afford me a decent living, I gave her up, and hired myself to ply in a boat belonging to a man named Patterson, who was employed principally in conveying wheat and other produce of the settlers in the interior, to Hobart Town.

Being now somewhat settled, I wrote a concise account of my shipwreck, &c. to my friends, which I dispatched by the first ship, which sailed in the October following.

While in this man's employ, and landing a hogshead of earthenware at Herdsman's Cove, and the two men who were assisting me being intoxicated, I being in the boat below, they let the hogshead slip, and falling, it struck me a most violent blow in the face, disfiguring me very much, and there being no surgeon nearer than Hobart Town, I could procure no surgical assistance to stop the bleeding, and it was feared that I should have bled to death. This accident confined me many days, but with the help of a good constitution, and tolerably good spirits, I was soon enabled to resume my labour.

The vice of drunkenness was extremely pre-

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valent, more particularly among the convicts, but I am sorry to add it greatly pervaded all classes.

About nine miles up the river, are situated Roseneath and Compton Ferries, the former the property of Mr. James Austin, and the latter the property of Mr. John Earle, and as we occasionally stopped at those Ferries to await the turn of the tide, I became acquainted with these gentlemen, through a man named Samuel Davis, a native of Paignton, whom I had accidently met at Newtown, three miles above Hobart Town, when going there after a spar for the boat I had hired of Mr. Bethune. This man had been convicted of robbing the dwelling house of Mr. Tapley, shopkeeper, at Tor, adjoining Torquay, in the year 1818, and sentenced to death, which sentence I believed had been carried into execution. I did not recognise him, but on his seeing me, he immediately inquired if I was not called Goodridge, and he then made himself known. This man knew something of ship-building, and was employed in that capacity by the parties I have named, and who greatly valued his services, as his conduct there had been very exemplary, for though sentenced to transportation for life, he had obtained a ticket of leave from the Government, in consequence of his good behaviour, within three years after his arrival.* He built for them the first large boats that

* A ticket of leave enables the convict to work for any master

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had been used at these Ferries. This introduction proved of some service to me, for in the October following, Mr. Earle hired me at fifteen shillings per week, and my board and lodging, to ply in his boats, he having, as I was vain enough to believe, observed in me an attention to business that pleased him.

The large boats used on those Ferries are of a peculiar make, they have flat bottoms and flat decks, somewhat after the mnaner of what are in this country termed Floating Bridges, being railed on each side to keep in the cattle. Great numbers of carts, sheep, bullocks, &c. having to cross, and the cattle being very wild, much care and attention is required, on the one hand to prevent the cattle from leaping overboard, and on the other hand to prevent their running all on one side of the boat, and thereby putting it in danger of being capsised.

Mr. Earle had a horse boat and a small boat, as also had Mr. Austin, and the large boat, called by us a punt, was considered the joint property of both, though, in point of fact, it belonged to Mr. Earle.

on his own account, with the proviso, that he is not to go out of the district, without a pass from the government. At the present time no convict sentenced for fife can get such an indulgence till he has served eight years with good conduct; those sentenced to fourteen years, must serve six years; and those sentenced to seven years, must serve four years.

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This punt was capable of conveying thirty head of cattle, or two hundred sheep, or two carts and sixteen oxen, across at a time, and during spring tides, or land floods, the currents ran so strong, that great labour was required to work those boats, and when the wind was high, without great care, the passage was frequently dangerous, the river being here three quarters of a mile across.

It sometimes happened on those occasions, that our punt broke adrift, and we had then much labour and trouble to track it up the river again, being frequently obliged to wade for considerable distances up to our middle in water.

Compton Ferry was on the interior side of the river, and Roseneath on the Hobart Town side, and, as the settlers increased at Hobart Town and neighbourhood, the demand for cattle and other produce of the interior became greater, and in consequence Mr. Austin determined to build a much larger punt, which he effected at an expense of about £500. Davis was employed on this also, having only a labourer under him, and was paid 5s. per day and his provisions, and it occupied him twelve months. This vessel, for such she might be called, would carry five loaded carts with their teams, or one hundred head of cattle, three hundred sheep, or a proportionate quantity of other produce, and proved very serviceable.

The punts were towed across by the smaller

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boats, one hand being left on board to keep the cattle in good trim, and prevent accidents.

Both Mr. Austin and Mr. Earle were men of respectability, and each kept a clerk to superintend their different interests. There was also an inn on each side, with good accommodation; that on Mr. Austin's, or the Hobart Town side, however, was the most advantageous, as numerous parties frequently came up on pleasure, from Hobart Town, it laying near the direct road from Hobart Town to New Norfolk; but the Compton or opposite Ferry was the most profitable, from the number of cattle coming down for slaughter.

Great good feeling existed between these gentlemen, each helping the other with the greatest alacrity, and although Mr. Austin had been at so great an outlay, for the large punt, it was always at the service of either side of the river.

I was thus brought in contact with Mr. Austin and Mr. Earle continually, and by care, assiduity and sobriety, I soon made friends of both, and not only did this add much to my comfort and happiness, but it paved the way to my advancement. Both these gentlemen were from Boltonsbury, near Yeovil, in Somersetshire, and I being also from the West of England, this doubtless influenced them in my favour.

In August, 1824, I unfortunately had some disagreement with Mr. Earle, and left him in con-

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sequence; and I again went into the service of Patterson. I was partly induced to this step, from his owing me some arrears of wages, which, I thus hoped to obtain, but it proved a futile hope.

I had not been with him above a month, when going to Hobart Town, on Thursday, the 30th of September, I was taken into custody as a runaway sailor from the *King George* whaler, a reward of two pounds each having been offered for the apprehension of several of the crew of that ship, who had deserted from her, while she was laying in the harbour. I thought at first this accusation was occasioned by my reaching Hobart Town in the Tender belonging to that vessel, and this no doubt served as a colour to the charge; but I afterwards discovered that it was done at the instigation, and on the information of an Irish sailor, for the purpose of filling my situation in Patterson's boat.

As I had now been in Van Diemen's Land only fourteen months, and had been away from Hobart Town during the larger part of that period, I was not at all acquainted with the laws and regulations of the town, and when apprehended, I knew not how to act, for my own declarations of innocence availed me nothing, and the magistrates being engaged in licensing boats, I was given in charge to the under turnkey; and shut up in gaol with nineteen other prisoners, com-

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prising some of the worst characters of the place, many of them covered with filth and vermin.

Amid all my trials, none affected me more than this, having ever endeavoured to act so as to obtain a good reputation, and relying on that only as the means of advancing myself in life. Here I was kept for four days, but I avoided, as much as possible, either communication or contact with any of the miserable objects around me, except with a Scotch settler, who was put in for some petty offence, and who showed me some kindness, by lending me a great coat at night.

The torment of mind I suffered in this place was inconceivable, and strongly impressed on me the necessity of that classification of prisoners which has been so wisely instituted in England, and also the summary method of immediately bringing persons before a magistrate, before sending them to gaol.

On the first day of my confinement, I wrote to Dr. Brombley, but he happened unfortunately to be ill in bed, and I having omitted to state that I was one of those who had been brought to Van Diemen's Land by the tender of the *King George* whaler, he forgot my name.

Immediately on his being able to come down stairs, however, on the Sunday morning following, he made enquiry among his domestics, if they recollected my name, and on being informed by

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Sands, his coxswain, that I was one of the unfortunate men who had been so long on the desolate island, and who had been sheltered under his roof, he sent for the under-gaoler to come to him immediately, and ordered him to release me on his, Dr. Brombley's, responsibility. This, however, the under-gaoler objected to do, until he went to Mr. Humphery, who was then the Chief Police Magistrate, and on his order I was liberated, but not until the under-gaoler demanded 3s. 6d. as gaol fees.

Feeling that this was an imposition, and determined not quietly to put up with such a piece of injustice, I returned to Herdsman's Cove, and having put myself in what sailors would call sailing trim, came back again to Hobart Town.

My first step was to wait on Dr. Brombley, and thank him for his kind interference, and then having communicated to him the imposition that had been practised on me, he recommended me to state the case to Mr. Gillebrand, then his Majesty's Attorney-General at Van Diemen's Land. This gentleman treated me with great politeness, and told me I should first go to Mr. Humphery, the police magistrate, and ask him if he had any charge against me, and that if he had none, I was to return to him, and he would see justice done me. I accordingly waited on Mr. Humphery, and on that gentleman's hearing the particulars,

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he told me if I would call on him the following morning, at eleven, he would enquire into the case, and I waited on him accordingly. At the door I met the under-gaoler, who used a great deal of idle talk to induce me to forego my complaint, but I persisted in seeing Mr. Humphery, had the under-gaoler and constable severely reprimanded, and recovered the fees.

It may readily be supposed, that, after such a loss of time, I was not much of a gainer by persisting in the course I did, but yet, knowing that publicity would be caused by it, and feeling also that I should thereby be freed from every imputation, I did not begrudge the trouble it had occasioned me.

I was told that I had good grounds of action for false imprisonment, but as I, like most sailors, have no very high opinion of law, I thought it wise to stay further proceedings, as I had gone quite far enough to save my reputation, and regain my money, and he who escapes from law with that, may think himself very well off.

On returning to my employ, I found the Irishman who had laid the charge against me, snug in my berth with Mr. Patterson, and on my making the latter acquainted with his conduct, he was politely requested to leave his quarters. I returned to the same employ, and continued in it till the November following, when, finding that my arrears

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with Patterson were increasing rather than decreasing, I left him, and went two voyages in a sloop which traded up the Derwent as far as Pitwater, which is about sixteen miles from Hobart Town by land, but taking the windings of the river, the distance is about fifty miles. The sloop was then laid up.

Large quantities of Millett are caught in this river; and on one occasion, having purchased some from a man who had caught and salted a large number, myself and companion partook of some for supper, and we were shortly afterwards seized with giddiness, accompanied by excruciating pains, many other persons who had partook of them having been attacked in the same way. What was the cause, I am unable to say; but it was attributed to their having been left out by moon-light, while drying, after being salted. I am at a loss myself to discover what hand the moon could have had in it; but in hot climates sailors are very careful not to hang out their provisions by moon-light from a fear of its baneful influence.

I next went into the employ of a Mr. Campbell, who kept the Ferry between Hobart Town and Kangaroo Point.

The passage at this ferry is a very dangerous one, and is carried on in sailing boats. From the negligence and drunkenness of the ferry-men many lives had been lost, the squalls coming on

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very suddenly, and the wind frequently blowing very strong. There was also a considerable opposition here, seven different persons having boats in this employ. My wages were only 10s. per week, with board and lodgings, which is about the usual amount paid to labourers.

The boat I plied in had a short time before I went in her, been upset, and the two boatmen and a passenger drowned. This boat had therefore a bad name, being denominated the Drowning Boat. Not a female passenger could I get to trust herself to my care, on account of this cognomen; so I set myself to work to overcome the prejudice, and though I had so long been deprived of female society, and was consequently rather an ignoramus in the art of pleasing, yet I contrived at last to win them over, and not only so, but I strove so hard to give satisfaction by extra care, that I at length became somewhat of a favourite among the more timid sex; and I feel confident few things will conduce more to a man's thriving, than having the good wishes of the fair.

On one occasion, being about to go off with a Mrs. Wade, a farmer's wife at Pitwater, and two others, a man named Williams, a convict, who was employed in another boat, having only one passenger, being intoxicated, endeavoured to get the passengers from my boat into his, by recording to them its old name, "the Drowning Boat," but

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Mrs. Wade replied, that she thought there was more safety in a drowning boat with a sober man, than in a safe boat with a drunken man. Both boats started together, and a severe squall coming on, Williams's boat was upset, in consequence of his making fast the sheets of the sail, and he being intoxicated, was drowned; the passenger and his fellow boatman, however, reached the shore.

I continued in this employ till April, 1825, when I hired a boat on my own account, and again went what is termed a wooding; that is, as I have before stated, fetching wood from up the river, for the use of the inhabitants of Hobart Town. On application I had assigned to me a convict named Edward Moore, and with his assistance I continued trading with this boat till the August following.

During this month, in going one of my trips, I stopped for the night about half a mile below Anagan Point, and here there was a station, where several convicts were employed in preparing wood for the Government service. My boat lay about thirty yards from the hut, which was situated close to the shore. I permitted my assistant to go on shore to sleep, but I remained myself in the boat, and about one o'clock I was awakened by an attack from a thief, who had swam off, and getting on board without my hearing him, now threatened my life if I stirred or

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made the least resistance. Feeling there was little to expect from the tender mercy of a bush-ranger, for such he was, I grappled with him, and a severe struggle we had, I at the same time calling as loud as I could, in order to alarm my man on shore, which I at length did—but not before the robber had attempted to stab me. In the attempt he fortunately dropt his knife, and my boat being at the time laden with potatoes, covered with straw, it fell among the latter; and he tried in vain to recover it. Finding that I had awakened the men on shore, and that he was now likely to get the worst of it, he again leaped overboard, and tried to escape by swimming, but my man seized him on his landing, and secured him. On my going on shore, he begged very hard to be suffered to escape, vowing that he had no intention of hurting me. I hesitated for a considerable time, but knowing that I was surrounded by convicts, and that there exists sometimes a strong fellow-feeling among them, I deemed it advisable, there being no civil power within some distance, to make a virtue of necessity, and therefore let the fellow go. I found his knife the next day among the straw, and a formidable weapon it was —and had he not dropt it, most likely my life would have been sacrificed.

Here again had I fresh cause for thankfulness to that Almighty Being, who had in so many in-

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stances preserved me, and in this instance in such imminent danger, for whilst asleep and unarmed, I was attacked by a man, who, made desperate by his being an outlaw to society, his own existence therefore at stake, plunder in expectation, and my life the only obstacle, was ripe for the most dreadful exigency; and what but an over-ruling Providence could have preserved me? During the time I was in the boat, and having been obliged to wait at one of the wood farms for the tide, seeing some of the natives near, curiosity led me and my man to venture among them. We found them broiling an opposum, entrails and all, which, when cooked, they partook of with good appetites, and invited us by motions to join them. After this meal they began a kind of dance, all hands repeating the word *corobory*. We remained among them till towards daylight, during all which time they continued their revelry. They appeared to us an harmless people, though since, they have proved very dangerous neighbours.

Another fish found on the rivers of Van Diemans land, is named the Toad fish, partly from its shape, being very short and thick; it is not eaten, as it is considered poisonous. They are about three or four inches long and nearly as broad, and are covered with brilliant yellow spots.

I shortly after this met Mr. Earle, my old employer. He very kindly enquired after my wel-

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fare, and after some further conversation, offered to let me a much larger boat, on very advantageous terms, and with an assurance of plenty of employment for her. This boat barthened six tons, and the proposals he held out to me were so liberal, that I immediately accepted his offer, and from this time found him a sincere friend, anxious at all times to push me forward, and assisting me in every way he could.

My principal employ in this boat, was in conveying wood and Black Wattle Bark, (known in England by the name of Mamosa bark,) from Mr. Earle's farm to Hobart Town, and freighting back with whatever I could procure.

I had only been one fortnight in my new boat, when my bright hopes received a check, for it being generally believed that by far the greater portion of the Bush rangers were on the Hobart Town side of the river, where their attacks on property and individuals had become very daring, it was determined to make a strong endeavour to repress them, all the inhabitants rising *en masse* for that purpose; and, as a necessary step, an embargo was laid on all the boats in the river, to prevent their being made use of by the Bush-rangers, in effecting their escape into the interior. We were also required to keep watch nightly at the Ferries, by an order from the Government, and in which I was obliged to take my share.

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As my boat was thus rendered useless to me, I consulted with Mr. Earle, and he told me if I would employ myself in stripping bark on his farm till I could again resume the boat, he would give me 10s. per ton; and the offer was made in such friendly guise, that, although it was an occupation I was not at all versed in, I accepted his proposal.

While thus employed, it was mentioned to me, by Davis, that Mr. Earle had, in naming me, expressed himself very warmly in my favour, and that he had some intention of offering me the Ferry, if I would undertake it. I could scarcely believe the suggestion, but on the following day Mr. Earle himself proposed it to me.

This was a most unexpected offer, as it was a concern of considerable magnitude, at least for me; it was not however to be slighted, for the advantages it offered, if I could get it at a reasonable rate, were very great, not only in a pecuniary point of view, but as also establishing me on a much more respectable footing than my means or my industry had hitherto enabled me to take.

Mr. Earle first proposed my taking it at £1 per day; to this I objected, observing that if I took it I should like to have it by the year. I ultimately agreed to take it at a rent of £250 per annum, and entered on it the next day. This was in November, and in December I had a regular agreement drawn up between us.

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When I first entered on this concern the embargo was still on, and what was a damp to my prospects in the boat was a source of much profit to me here; for all persons crossing were obliged to come to the Ferries, and a very large increase of business was the consequence. I was my own clerk, superintendant, and ferry-man, and I used every means which industry suggested to make the most of my undertaking, for my outgoings in rent and wages were between 4 and £500 per annum.

About two miles above the Ferry I rented, there was another called Cove and Stony Point Ferry; but to come to this Ferry it was requisite to cross a creek over which there was a bridge, and a flood having carried the bridge away, I had a very great influx of passengers in consequence, and this also added largely to my profits.

Mr. Austin still carried on the opposite side of the Ferry, and gave his men orders to render me every assistance in their power, so that my concern went on very smoothly, and netted me a very good income.

In April, 1826, Mr. Earle determined to retire from business, and offered to let me the Inn, an estate of 2500 acres, and the Ferry; this, however, I considered to be more than I could manage, so I declined his offer, thanking him at the same time for his kind preference.

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The whole concern was taken by a Mr. W. Johnson, a settler, but with the proviso that I was to retain the Ferry, paying Mr. Johnson the rent instead of Mr. Earle. I then purchased of Mr. Earle his large boat, for which I gave him £50; and Mr. E. having settled all the business, both to his own satisfaction and mine, he retired to a residence named Green Ponds.

I have stated that Mr. Austin, on the opposite Ferry, rendered me all the assistance in his power, and without such assistance I should not have been enabled to go on so well; as besides the large punt I have mentioned, he had built two new horse boats, and two small boats, and the use of all those were most liberally granted me by Mr. Austin.

Mr. Johnson had brought with him a superintendant to his farm named Wheavel, and this person, seeing that I was making a good concern of it, endeavoured to obtain the Ferry for himself, and to this end, offered a much higher rental. Finding how matters stood, I gave it up, and Mr. Wheavel entered on the concern, on the 21st of August.

Mr. Austin, however, was by no means pleased with the change, and refused him any of the accommodation he had so liberally granted me, and the consequence was, that in six weeks Mr. Wheavel was obliged to give it up.

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I had considerable difficulty in collecting my debts, and was obliged to resort to the Court of Requests for many of them. I found, however, every assistance in the commissioner, Joseph Hone, Esq. whose zeal and equitable decisions have rendered him universally respected in the colony. This occasioned me much loss of time; but in October I commenced trading in my own boat up the river, and in the following month, November, I was applied to by a Mr. Alwright, who held the lease of Cove Point Ferry, to take it of him. As I could not agree upon terms, it passed on till January, 1827, when he again sent for me, and I then agreed to take it by the month, at the rate of £180. per annum. This Ferry was the property of the children of a Mr. and Mrs. Morris, deceased, and was held in trust for them by Mr. Humphrey, the chief police Magistrate, and his chief clerk, Mr. Boyd.

I had at this Ferry one large punt, capable of carrying four loaded carts and their teams, &c. or animals in proportion, one horse boat and a small boat. The opposite Ferry, called Stony Point, was in possession of a Mr. M'Mahon, but it belonged to a Mr. William Thomas Stocker, and I went on with him very comfortably, as we mutually assisted each other. The distance across here is about a mile and a quarter, and the place lies very open and much exposed to the winds, therefore

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much additional care was required. While at this Ferry, an awful instance of drowning occurred; one of the men employed by Mr. M'Mahon, being excited by passion, was swearing the most dreadfully blasphemous oaths a man could well utter, when he suddenly fell overboard, and although the water was not above eight feet deep, he never rose again. Immediate search was made for the body, but it was above two hours before it was found, when I discovered it sticking in the mud.

Many of my customers followed me to this Ferry, and would go one way to further my interest, and return the other to further the interests of my former friend, Mr. Austin.

The bridge I mentioned as having been washed away, had been substantially replaced before I entered on this concern.

In May, the Barque *Lucy Ann*, commanded by Captain Dacre, arrived at Hobart Town, and in her Mr. Veale, the same gentleman who commanded the *Princess of Wales*, and who was one of those who was wrecked with us, and who went to the Isle of France in the American Schooner. He was now first officer of this vessel.

On hearing where I was stationed, he sent me a letter inviting me on board the ship, and Mr. Bisdee, brother of the head keeper of the prison in which I had been so unjustly confined, took the trouble to ride up with the letter to me himself,

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also bringing up letters from my friends in England, brought out by Mr. Veale.

I was extremely glad to hear of his being at Hobart Town, and went down the same day to see him, anxious to hear every thing I could, not only as regarded himself, but also about my connexions at home.

Mr. Veale informed me that himself, his brother, and Petherbridge were landed by Captain Percival at the Isle of France, where a subscription was set on foot for them by the Governor, and that they were treated there with the greatest humanity. That he went to the Cape of Good Hope, in the Welch Brig *Hero*, in which vessel I think he informed me he returned to England.

Jarvis Veale, the Captain's brother, and Petherbridge, returned to England in the *Lord Exmouth*, Capt. Evans, and on their arrival in the London Docks, they applied for relief to the British and Foreign Bible Society; their destitute state was made known to the Rev. Mr. Smith, of Penzance, (deservedly famed for his religious zeal in behalf of seamen,) who mentioned their case to the Lord Mayor, and in conjunction with Mr. Fabian, the secretary of the Society, and other gentlemen, set on foot a subscription for them; Mr. Smith preached a sermon in their behalf, on which occasion he introduced their skin dresses to the notice of the congregation, and made a liberal collection.

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A long account of our voyage and shipwreck was published in the *Morning Herald*, of Nov. 24, 1823, from the statements given by Veale and Petherbridge.

The letters from my friends informed me that we had all been mourned as dead, and expressed much anxiety to see me, affectionately soliciting my return, also containing accounts of various family occurrences, by no means interesting to others, and which I shall not therefore trouble my readers by stating.

I had now made up my mind to return to England in the ship *Cumberland*, Capt. Carnes, I however changed my determination, and the result to me, was a most providential escape, as the *Cumberland* was taken by pirates, and every soul on board murdered. There were several passengers on board, and among them a Mr. Emmett, a son I believe of the chief clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Department. I sent a letter to my friends by the *Cumberland*, but which of course never reached its destination, and no communication from me having reached my friends for two years, they again considered me dead. I had been waiting to hear from them in answer to mine.

The *Lucy Ann* traded between Hobart Town and Sydney, but after some time she was sold to the Government of Sydney.

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Mr. Johnson who took the Compton Ferry, with the estate, inn, &c. had made several applications to me to take the Ferry again of him, but so much disagreement had taken place between him and Mr. Austin, that the latter had vowed solemnly that not one of his boats should ever assist at Compton Ferry, let who might take it, I therefore declined the offer, not being willing to be placed in such a situation with my former friend; considering also, that the want of Mr. Austin's friendship had been the means of Mr. Johnson's not doing well.

The lease of Cove Point Ferry, Inn and Farm, being expired, it was advertised for letting by tender, and taken by a Mr. Joseph Howell; this was in September, 1827. Not knowing how to manage the Ferry concern, Mr. Howell offered it to me, and I now became the renter of it, from him, for £180. a year.

Before Mr. Alwright left I bought twelve hundred weight of wool of him, for which I gave him £4. and sold it again to Mr. Veale, who had returned to Hobart Town in the ship *Lang*, Capt. Lusk, of which Mr. Veale was first officer. I mention this circumstance to illustrate the price of this kind of produce at that period. It has since become a much more valuable commodity.

About March, 1828, Mr. Johnson pressed me very much to return and take Compton Ferry, and Mr. Howell now wishing to carry on the Cove

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Point Ferry himself, I waited on Mr. Austin, to ascertain how he would act in case I took it; but he would not go from his word.—As a means however of enabling me to take it, he offered me his Ferry of Roseneath also, at a rent of £200. a year. For Mr. Johnson's Ferry I now agreed to give £208 a year, so I had now both sides in my own hands; and Mr. Austin's part I took for a term of three years.

I now applied to the government authorities, and obtained four men, and their rations; as a set off to which I was to convey all Government property, and also all officers, either civil or military, across, free of expence.

Poor Johnson became so involved that Mr. Earle was obliged to distrain for his rent, and his property was sold for the demand. This caused a melancholy to take possession of his mind, and in a fit of despair he shot himself in his bed-room. This fatal act was committed by him on the 24th of July, 1828.

I had now to pay my rent to Mr. Earle, in justice to whom I must add, that he behaved with great generosity to Johnson; for on his meeting with an accident, by the sinking of his punt, he gave him up £50. of his rent, and in other respects behaved very kindly to him.

In October, 1828, I was crossing the Ferry with my punt, having on board twenty-five head of

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horned cattle, and the weather being boisterous, I myself undertook to manage the animals, so as to keep them in trim, while my men towed in the small boat—but when about half way across, the cattle took it into their head to run all on one side, and this being to leeward, their weight, added to the force of the wind, capsized my punt, and drowned twelve head of the cattle. I had a very narrow escape myself; I had, fortunately, however, a small boat tied to the stern of the punt, and seeing that nothing I could do could prevent her going over, I jumped into it, and within a second afterwards she turned bottom upwards. The other thirteen head of cattle swam ashore. This was one of the most severe losses I met with, for rather than I would be considered as not acting equitably, I made up the entire amount to the owner, being £32. 10s. after making some allowance for the skins. The bullocks were the property of a Mr. Hutton, a very respectable butcher, a native of Scotland, who had sometime settled in Van Diemen's Land. He was so satisfied with my conduct in this affair, that he took every occasion to speak of it, made it public in the newspapers, and ultimately, I believe, I was a gainer, rather than a loser by the accident, for it created a great confidence among those who had to cross the river with large numbers of cattle, and by that means my Ferry obtained a preference.

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In December of 1828, I received such pressing letters from my friends in England to pay them a visit, that I determined, if Mr. Austin would cancel my agreement, that I would give up the Ferry, although it was a great sacrifice, it being, in the economical way I conducted it, a very profitable concern. I had, however, now been absent from my native land nearly nine years; and the earnest entreaties of my friends were strongly seconded by my own inclinations; for callous must be the heart that can forget the associations of youth, and the scenes of early days, more particularly when blended with the affectionate call of aged parents, reaching him from the world's most distant point; of parents too, and friends, who had mourned him as dead, and in the sable garb of sorrow had shed the tear, as they considered, of earthly separation. My return to them, under such circumstances, must have been felt by them as a resurrection from the dead; and to me the ideas that crowded on my mind, appeared to possess so little of the common occurrences of life, that I certainly indulged in flights of imagination, which, to one so situated, may, I trust, be pardoned; and if I have not experienced all, in reality, what my romantic fancy led me to expect, I had the satisfaction of being received in the most affectionate manner by my kindred and friends. But my pen, like my imagination,

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is running faster than my narrative in proper pace should travel.

To return, after perusing and re-perusing my letters from England, and in anticipation already enjoying the congratulations of my kindred, I was brought back to the recollection, that I had a lease of three years of Mr. Austin's Ferry, near two years of which were unexpired. Full of the ideas of home, however, I hastened to Mr. Austin, shewed him my letters—he entered into my feelings—I had little need of soliciting him to cancel the obligation I had entered into, for, in the most friendly manner, he said he would acquiesce with my wishes whenever I felt disposed to return to the land of my birth.

With such a concern, however, I had much to do before I could settle all things to my satisfaction, and indeed that I did not contrive to do at last.

A considerable deal of credit is given on those Ferries, and I had a number of outstanding debts to call in; I did not therefore quit the Ferries till July 14, 1829, and even at this period I found I was much too premature, for it so happened, that in that year the Court of Requests was suspended, a new act being in preparation. It was reported, and fully expected, that this act would come out in May, but instead of its so doing, it did not arrive till July, 1830, and I had no means therefore of *obliging* those indebted to me to pay what they

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owed; and it happens in Van Diemen's Land much the same as in other places, that when people are not obliged to pay, they will take every advantage the non-operation of the law will give them.

As the amount owed me was considerable, I took up my residence at Hobart Town, and set myself to work to gather in my accounts, but the progress I made was so small, that when the act arrived out, nearly 12 months after, I had still a large arrear unsettled.

During this period I spent much of my time in hearing the trials in the criminal courts, and the crimes are but too frequently of the most dreadful kind, more particularly those committed by the Bush-rangers,; for as they have seldom much leniency shown them, they are seldom disposed to stop their hands from murder, if either plunder or their own safety are at stake.

It was at this time that the famous London fence, Ikey Solomons, made his appearance in Van Diemen's Land, having escaped from the turnkey of the Newgate Prison, in London. He was soon recognised by his old acquaintance, the London thieves; some of whom would address him most familiarly, but he would not admit the recognition. Others would abuse him, saying there goes the old rascal who used to fence my swag, and if it had not been for him, I should not have been

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here; with other similar language. This coming to the ears of the authorities, a communication was sent to England, and a warrant was forwarded from thence for his apprehension. He had opened a store in Liverpool street, which was well supplied with watches, clothes, &c. &c. and was living in apparent affluence with his wife, he having procured from the governor her release from the female house of correction. On the warrant coming out, Mr. Thomas Capon, the chief constable of the colony, with an assistant, took him into custody, and lodged him in the high gaol. He was in a few days brought before the Court. He employed Mr. Gillebrand as his counsel, (who came out as Attorney-General, but who had been suspended,) who contended, that the authorities had no right to send him home under the warrant. The case was argued for nearly a fortnight, and I attended the court nearly all the time. John Lewes Pedder, Esq., the Chief Justice, presided. The Attorney-General, Algernon Montague, Esq., and the Solicitor-General, Alfred Stephens, Esq., contended for the legality of the arrest, and the right to send him home, and overruled all the arguments adduced by Ikey's able advocate. The result was, that the Governor determined on taking the responsibility of Mr. Solomons' return to England to take his trial. I presume my readers are tolerably well informed

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of the sequel. He was sent home in the *Prince Regent*, commanded by Capt. Mallard, R.N. in the custody of Mr. Thomas Capon, chief constable in the colony. He was fully convicted, and sentenced to transportation for life to, I believe, Norfolk Island.

Active measures were at this time adopted for checking the depredations of the wild natives, who had, in many instances, plundered and murdered the settlers. A consultation was held by the authorities, and it was determined to form, if possible, a cordon around where they were supposed to be nearly all congregated. All the soldiers were sent out, and the respectable inhabitants did duty in their stead, at Hobart Town; but it was supposed that the blacks had information of the measures about to be taken, as many of the natives who had at times been employed as servants by the settlers, had afterwards returned to their tribe, and had frequently become formidable leaders of the depredators; and there being some few of the natives in Hobart Town, in the capacity of servants, it was not possible to keep the measures so secret, as to prevent its coming to their knowledge. Be it however as it may, the blacks were too cunning for the whites, for very few of them were taken.

It had happened that one of the most formidable

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of their leaders, named Musquito,* and who had previously been in the service of a settler, was some years before taken and executed, and from that period, a spirit of revenge had taken hold of their minds, which led them to every species of crime, and they scarcely ever spared the lives of those they happened to attack, but speared them without mercy.

I remained in Hobart Town, collecting my debts, &c. until the beginning of 1831, but even then I was obliged to leave much money behind.

The ship *Lang*, Mr. George Southerland commander, being about to sail for England, and Mr. Josiah Austin, nephew of Mr. Austin, the proprietor of Roseneath Ferry, being about to take his passage in this vessel, I determined on doing so likewise.

Young Austin was returning to England for the purpose of taking out some other branches of the family, as Mr. A. had made a considerable property, and wished to benefit his relatives, by having them out with him. Another nephew of Mr. Austin took the superintendance of the Ferry at Roseneath, when I left it.

Having provided ourselves with our necessary sea-stock, we embarked on board the said vessel,

* This negro was in the Gaol at Hobart Town, at the period I was confined on the charge of being a ran-away sailor from the *King George*.

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on the 13th of February, 1831. The other passengers were Captain D'Arcy, of the Army, and his lady, and a Mr. Burgess, who kept an inn in Hobart Town. We went down the river the same evening, lay to off the Farm of Mr. Mansfield, our pilot, took on board a good supply of fuel and potatoes, and then proceeded on; passed Tasman's Head just as it was growing dark, and soon after lost sight of Van Diemen's Land.

It was somewhat remarkable that my stay in Van Diemen's Land was exactly seven years, seven months, and seven days. With pleasing anticipations I now bade it farewell, although to me it had proved an hospitable land, and in it I had found many friends, from whom I did not part without feelings of sorrow.

We experienced contrary winds for several days after our departure, and did not weather the South-west part of New Holland till the beginning of March. The determination of the Captain of the vessel to make the passage home by the Cape of Good Hope, instead of round Cape Horn, caused our voyage to be considerably protracted.

About the middle of April we were abreast of Madagascar, and here we experienced one of the most tremendous storms of thunder and lightning I had ever witnessed. It was fortunately accompanied by very heavy rain, for otherwise it is probable we

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should have suffered from it,—the flashes of lightning were so vivid, and so instantaneously followed by the thunder, that the electric fluid must have been in active force within a very short distance of the vessel. The thunder and lightning continued all night, but in the morning the weather cleared up, and we proceeded on our voyage.

On the 30th of April, we made the coast of Africa, and on the 8th of May rounded the Cape of Good Hope, with a heavy wind from the South-east. We now steered for the Island of St. Helena. On the 10th it blew so hard, that we could not carry sail, and were obliged to lay to for many hours. From the 13th to the 23rd, we had contrary winds, but we now met the South-east Trade wind, and on the 30th, in the morning, made the Island of St. Helena. On the following day, the passengers, including myself, Captain D'Arcy and his Lady, Mr. Austin, and Mr. Burgess, made an excursion to the tomb of Napoleon, which is about three miles from the town. The situation of the resting place of that, while living, restless spirit, by whose deeds all Europe had been shaken, has so oft been described, and by poetry's imagination sung, that I shall merely say, it afforded us, after a long confinement on ship board, a very pleasant trip.

On the next morning, June 1, the Captain having in the mean time taken on board a suffi-

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cient supply of water for the remainder of the voyage, and other necessaries, we again got under way.

There were other preparations requisite now, besides our provisions; for about this time many vessels had been plundered by pirates, near the line, every hand, therefore, passengers and all, were daily exercised at the great guns and small arms, in order, should we be attacked, not only to give them a warm reception, but also an effectual one. We had a strong breeze from St. Helena to the Equator, which we crossed on the 10th of June, at night, in longitude, about 22 degrees West, and when we came in the latitude of 6 degrees North, we got into the North-east trade wind.

Near the line we saw several small vessels, whose appearance was by no means prepossessing, but as we made a formidable display, keeping our ports up, and our guns in view, none came near us. Those piratical vessels are generally schooner-rigged and carry two long eighteen pounders, and have a great many men in them.

According to the usual plan we now stretched away to the North-west, in order to get out of the Trade winds, into the Variables, and proceeded as far as 33 degrees North latitude, and longitude 42 degrees West, before we obtained our wishes. This was on the 5th of July; we then got a westerly wind; steered our course for the English Channel; and on the 29th, to our no

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small joy, made the Lizard Point, bearing N.N.E. distant about fifteen miles. And now Old England, once more in view, appeared to infuse a new life into us; mutual congratulations were exchanged, and we all began to make preparations for a landing according as opportunities might offer.

As my home was in the West of England, I was of course anxious to take the first chance that offered. On the next day, Saturday, the 30th, we got off Plymouth, and here we had a view of those noble bulwarks of Great Britain, her wooden walls, as we passed close to a squadron of line-of-battle ships, who were out on an exercising cruise, and we had the gratification of seeing them exercise their men and guns in great perfection. On Sunday morning the 31st, we came off Torbay, and now I anxiously looked out for some conveyance to land. I was in sight of my native village—my heart beat high against my breast, as if it were eager to meet the scenes from which it had been so long separated, ere the means were ready to convey its owner to the fondly cherished spot which had sheltered his early days. The venerable tower of Paignton, forming as it does one of the most conspicuous objects in the bay, was full in view, and with my glass I could trace many well remembered objects, even the very dwelling of my childhood and the home of my

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parents. I gazed and gazed again—my feelings were too big for utterance,—vain would be my attempt to describe them.

During the larger part of this day we were becalmed, and the current drove us till we were off Dartmouth, and yet no means of landing appeared. In the evening a breeze sprung up, and the Captain, in the kindest manner, ran his vessel as close in shore as he could do with safety, to see if any boats would come off, but to my inexpressible disappointment none appeared. The wind was, however, extremely light all night, from the N. N. E. and the next morning it again became quite calm. In the afternoon we saw several fishing sloops, and one of them came near, and sent a boat on board with some fish for sale. This vessel was out of Weymouth, and understanding from her that a schooner, at no great distance, was bound to Brixham, I offered the men ten shillings to put me on board of her, which they accepted. I now bade my fellow-passengers farewell, with whom, I must add, I spent the time as pleasantly as possible, as we each strove to add to the others comforts, and not the least cause of disagreement occurred during the passage.

I soon had all things ready to depart, and quickly got on board the sloop; the Captain of her made a signal to the schooner to lay to, which she did accordingly; and on nearing him he accom-

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panied me on board, in order to satisfy the commander, whoever he might be, that the ship I left was healthy, and from a healthy climate.

From the Captain of the schooner, Mr. Samuel Tyrer, I received the greatest civility; for he would not accept of the smallest remuneration for taking me to Brixham,—where we arrived on the following morning, Tuesday, August the second —the passage from Van Diemen's Land occupying five months and twenty-one days.

On going ashore, I went to the house of an old school-fellow, Mr. James Clarke, hatter, of Brixham, who gave me a most cordial welcome; he would fain have had me stop a short time with him, but as I was anxious to return to Paignton, he procured a horse and gig, and accompanied me thither.

Both my parents were still alive, but infirmity had put an iron hand on my father; my presence however, gave him much comfort, for I was to him as one risen from the grave. Since that period I have been called on to pay my father those last and sorrowful duties which sum up the end of our human career; and I only, of four brothers then living, had the mournful consolation of attending him in his last hours.

But not to tire my readers with my sorrows, I will only add, that my reception among my friends was most friendly and cordial, and to that kind

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Providence, which in so many dangers, and under so great privations, threw its protection over me, must I now offer up my grateful acknowledgments for restoring me to my native soil, blessed with health, and though with but small means, sufficient, I had hoped, with a competent share of assiduity and industry, to enable me to spend the remainder of my life amidst my family connections and friends.

After the death of my father, which occurred about eight months after my return, finding my prospects in England any thing but favourable, I should have returned to Van Diemen's Land, but the solicitations of my aged mother, who still lives at Paignton, and the ill health of my wife, (for I had become a benedict) prevented me. As far as pecuniary matters are concerned, I have had much cause to regret leaving that country; having been unfortunate in my speculations, first in an Inn, at Dartmouth, and afterwards in a shop at Brixham; and my entire support now rests on the patronage I obtain in the disposal of this narrative of my checquered life. I cannot but express my acknowledgments for the support and sympathy I have experienced, in my endeavours to obtain a livlihood by this means, from all classes; many ladies and gentlemen have not only purchased copies, but have furnished me, unasked, with letters of introduction to their

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friends; and I should be wanting in gratitude to them, had I failed thus to express my thanks, when their kindness has enabled me to reprint my work.

In my first edition I gave a very lengthened account of Van Diemen's Land; but as I have found that it was not a subject of general interest, I have now only given the principal points on which enquiries have been made; but shall be happy to reply to any further questions which the information I have obtained by a long residence in that country may enable me to answer.

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ADDENDA.

Van Diemen's Land, from being the place where felons are transported from this country, and consequently the receptacle for the vilest, the most daring, and active spirits—the measures also which have of late years been adopted for rendering transportation a punishment of greater severity, having, on some points, excited considerable interest—the following particulars of that colony will, I hope, prove acceptable, particularly also, as it is considered a desirable spot for emigration :—

To Emigrants, Van Diemen's Land offers many advantages, at least to those who have a small capital. To mechanics generally, even without capital, it affords, with sobriety and industry, a comfortable and certain livelihood, and the means of speedily becoming landowners. Carpenters, builders, smiths, masons, boat-builders, tailors, shoe-makers, curriers, stone-cutters, and indeed all useful trades, are in much request; but a great quantity of labour being provided by the convicts, who are hired out by the authorities at a

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very low rate, labourers are much less wanted, though still there is a certainty of employment; but the wages are low, comparatively with others the remuneration to a labourer being about ten shillings per week and his board. Boys of ten years of age can earn about three shillings per week and their meat, and older ones in proportion. Indeed there is no want of employment for those of either sex, willing to work; and by milliners, dress-makers, straw-hat-makers, &c. very large profits are realised. It is not however such a "Land of Goshen," that idlers may live without labour. The sober and the industrious are sure to be respected and employed, and may by perseverance live in affluence, as wages are good, and provisions comparatively low. Clothing, however, of all kinds, is dear as compared with England.

The general character of Van Diemen's Land is hilly and mountainous, the hills to the height of between three and four thousand feet, being mostly covered with trees, above which it has a comparatively naked, weather worn, and barren aspect, being for five or six months of the year, from April till October, more or less covered with snow.

A settler who has a grant of 1000 acres of land, is fortunate if he has 100 acres that will admit of the plough, and three or four hundred more affording good pasturage for his flocks.

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To one accustomed to the moist climate and plentifully watered countries of England, Scotland, or Ireland, Van Diemen's Land at first sight may present a dry and unproductive appearance; but upon a nearer acquaintance it will put on a more inviting aspect. Although, however, the rivers and streams may not be so large nor so frequent as in England, they are sufficiently so to answer every purpose of agriculture; and water, that essential of life, is more or less to be met with in every part of the island. With the exception of the two inlets of the sea, at the mouths of the Derwent and Tamar, there is no inland navigation in the colony. The chief rivers, in the settled parts of the island, are the Derwent, with its tributary streams, the Jordan, Clyde, Shannon, Ouse, and the Huon, flowing into the Ocean on the southern side of the island; and on the northern the Tamar, being the collected waters of the North and South Esk, the Lake, and Western Rivers. In addition to these, in the higher regions of the interior, are several extensive lakes or sheets of water.

A very fine species of lime, used in the better sort of plastering and stuccoing, is made in considerable quantities by burning the oyster shells that are found in beds along various parts of the coast. Other species of the calcareous genus also occur in different parts of the island. Marble of

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a white mixed grey colour, susceptible of a good polish, has frequently been found, though never yet dug up or applied to use. Round Hobart Town, where the progress of improvement frequently exposes the soil to the depth of two or three yards, sometimes strata of soft clayey marl occur, which have been found very useful as a manure. Much of the common lime-stone is of a yellowish or redish colour, no doubt derived from the quantity of oxide of iron with which it is mixed, and which is so generally scattered throughout all parts of the island. Iron ore is very general, both of a red, brown, and black colour. In one or two instances it has been analysed, and found to contain eighty per cent of the perfect mineral. Indications of coal have been found all across the island, commencing at South Cape, and showing themselves in various parts, at Satellite Island in D'Entrecasteaux's Channel, on the banks of the Huon, at Hobart Town, New Norfolk, the Coal river, Jerusalem, Jericho, and other places. As the expence of providing fire wood for the different departments of Government is yearly becoming greater, and the difficulty of procuring the wood at convenient stations increasing, it is probable that means will be taken to open a communication with the coal districts. Messrs. Mandsley, Son, and Field, the engineers in London, have analysed some specimens of the

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Van Diemen's Land coal sent home by Mr. Waghorn, of the Bengal pilot service, which they declared to be equal to the Elgin Wall's End coals, and superior to Newcastle coal, for the purpose of raising steam.

Of the various species of argillaceous genus, basalt is by far the most abundant. Indeed it would appear to be the chief and predominant substratum of the island. All along the coast it presents itself in rocky precipitous heights, standing on its beautiful columnar pedestals.

Argil also appears in the form of excellent roof slate, at a certain spot between Launceston and George Town, but the facility with which houses can be covered with shingles split from the different species of the gum tree, or Eucalyptus, has hitherto superseded its use.

Excellent sandstone for building is found in almost every part of the island; and most of the houses in Hobart Town are now built with it, brought from different parts within half a mile or mile of the town, instead of badly-made bricks as formerly. Flints in great plenty are scattered upon the hills, especially in the neighbourhood where basalt abounds. Other rare species of the silicious genus have been found in different parts of the island; of these may be mentioned, hornstone, schistus, wood opal, bloodstone, jasper, and that singular species called the cat's eye,

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reflecting different rays of light from the change of position.

Of the metallic ores, besides iron, which is most abundant, specimens of red and green copper ore, lead, zinc, manganese, and as some say, of silver and gold, have occasionally been found; but the latter I think is not to be relied on.

Petrified remains of wood, and other vegetable productions, entirely converted into silicious matter, and capable of the finest polish, are occasionally met with in different parts of the island.

Van Diemen's Land has a temperature almost as cold in the summer season as that of London, Brussels, or at least as Paris and Vienna. Its summer heats are so moderated, as to be not only congenial but delightful, to a person who has lived to maturity in an English climate, and whose system has become habituated to it. However warm the middle of the day may be, it is invariably attended by a morning and evening so cool, as completely to brace and restore any enervating effects that the meridian heat might have occasioned; and while the summer heat is thus moderated, the inclemency of winter is equally dissipated by the equality of temperature diffused from the extent of ocean surrounding its insular position.

Except on the days when rain actually falls, which on an average do not exceed 50 or 60 out of the 365, the sky is clear, and the sun brilliant. The

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atmosphere is consequently for the most part dry, pure, and elastic, which renders the system in a great measure insensible to the sudden changes of temperature that so frequently occur, particularly at Hobart Town, under the influence of Mount Wellington, and which otherwise must prove injurious to the health, especially of persons with delicate constitutions. The extreme of summer generally shows itself in two or three sultry days, when a hot wind from the north-east at times prevails, so oppressive as to raise the mercury, for three or four hours in the middle of the day, to 90, and even 100 and 110 degrees. It is however to be remarked, that the extensive fires which frequently occur in the woods, in the height of summer, when the accidental dropping of a spark will spread the flames for miles along the hills, may be reasonably supposed to have the effect of increasing the heat of the air, especially if the absence of winds, and the relaxed torpid state of the atmosphere at the time, should arrest, and as it were beat down, its heated volumes on the valleys and lower regions, where the towns are generally situated. In winter, the frost at night, except in the higher regions of the interior, is never so severe as to withstand the heat of the ensuing day. Sleet or snow generally falls once or twice a year, but never lays on the ground above a day or two, except on the tops of the mountains,

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or in the central parts of the island, where it has been known to continue for a week or ten days.

In such a climate, and with the active life which settlers in a new colony must necessarily lead, the health of the inhabitants, as might be supposed, is of the very best kind. The atmosphere is for the most part dry and elastic, and though it has not, as yet, been correctly analysed, yet it certainly contains a larger proportion of oxygen than most countries of the old world, the effect of which is to fortify and promote both animal and vegetable life.

More rain falls on the western coast than on any other part of the island, being exposed to the constant westerly winds blowing exhalations upon it from an uninterrupted tract of ocean. The weather, consequently, at the penal settlement of Macquarie Harbour, is of the most gloomy kind, more than half the year being stormy, cloudy, and rainy, and round Port Davey, attracted as the clouds must be by the very lofty mountains in that neighbourhood, the country bears the marks of being almost constantly soaked in wet.

An estimate has been formed, upon official returns, from which it appears, that while the average number of deaths from a certain amount of population in Van Diemen's Land is 200 annually, the registered tables of the most healthy parts of Europe, as Southampton, Norwich, or Sweden,

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would allow of upwards of double that number, or above 400.

The diseases to which children are liable in Van Diemen's Land, are neither so many, nor, generally speaking, so severe as in England. Hooping cough was introduced into the island from one of the female prison ships, about 3 years before I left but though it spread itself nearly throughout the whole population, it invariably appeared in a mild form, and I do not know that it was attended by a single death. Adults, indeed, and aged persons, who had not been affected with it in early life, felt it more severely. Small pox and measles were unknown when I left.

Against this favourable estimate of life, arising from the climate and circumstances of the colony must be made a dreadful make-weight in the other scale, in the lamentable waste of life by intoxication. The quantity of spirits, and other strong drink consumed annually in the colony, may on a moderate computation be taken at not less than 100,000 gallons annually, which, according to the population, allows the enormous quantity of about five gallons to each individual, young and old, male and female, in the island. So astounding a fact, shews at a glance the horrid state into which some of the community must be immersed. Dreadful as it is, however, it is on the decrease, as compared with former periods. A very large portion of

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those who first put their foot upon the shores of the Derwent, even belonging to what should be the more respectable and exemplary class of society, were confirmed drunkards, and died in the prime of life. To their ruinous example may fairly be attributed much of the dissipated habits that have so long afflicted the colony. For those in the humbler paths of life, always ready to imitate their superiors, are never so willing to do so, as in falling into relaxed habits, and in following that which is bad. Drunkenness especially is a vice of example, for nature recoils at the first intimacy with the syren, and it is only by long and repeated attacks that she at last enchains her victim. This baneful example has however ceased to be set by any of those in the better walks of life, the old drunkards, almost without exception, having hurried themselves to the grave, and drunkenness is narrowing the sphere of its noxious influence. Most even of the humbler or labouring classes, would now be ashamed to be charged with drunkenness, a vice which, not many years before I left, would have been their boast. The waste of property from this cause is immense. As regards waste of life it shews itself in three ways, namely, first by gradually impairing the health and system, so as to unfit the person for the performance of the common affairs of life, and inducing premature death; secondly, by apoplexy, suffocation, and other sud-

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den and accidental deaths arising out of drunkenness; and thirdly, by the crimes, murders, and executions, generally attending those whom death has not otherwise overtaken. One half of the deaths in the colony, at one period, might be traced directly or indirectly through drunkenness.

With the exception of these artificial causes of disease, physicians have not as yet discovered any complaint peculiar to the colony. Of the common disorders incidental to man, which have appeared most frequently, are those of fever and dysentery, but these probably can scarcely be reckoned to bear a larger proportion to the population than in other countries.

The penal settlements consist of three establishments remote from the main colony, and communicating with it only by water, viz.—Those at Macquarie Harbour, Maria Island, and Port Arthur. As being the oldest and most important, I will begin with

Macquarie Harbour, which is a large inlet of the sea on the west coast of Van Diemen's land, running up into the land a distance of about 20 miles, in a south easterly direction, until it meets with the Gordon river.

The prisoners who are banished to this settlement are generally of the worst description, and such only as can scarcely be trusted with safety in the main colony, or whose offences have deserved

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the signal punishment which this place is intended to inflict. On an average there were about 350 prisoners at the settlement. They did not, however, work in chains, except as a punishment for some offence committed on the spot. About 100 of this number were employed in ship building, and the remainder, divided into distinct parties, were chiefly employed in procuring timber. The timber thus obtained, consists mostly of Huon pine, with a small proportion of hard wood. It is cut down in logs at various convenient spots along the shores of the harbour and inlets, and along the banks of the Gordon river.

No beasts of burden were allowed at this settlement, and as the whole of the timber is obtained and all the buildings erected by human hands alone, the labour is often of the most excessive kind. In commencing a new place for the procuring of timber, they begin by cutting down the trees, and clearing a road-way perhaps a quarter of a mile in length. The large trunks of the trees being then divested of their branches, are rolled or carried and placed longitudinally together until a road-way of about five yards in breadth is formed all along, for the purpose of sliding down the heavy logs of timber as they are cut in the forest, to the water's edge. The timber is then arranged into rafts of about one hundred logs in each, while the myrtle trees and other heavy wood

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which will not float, is lashed to the sides of a large boat, and the whole is brought to the wharfs, where it is landed and puton board the vessels, or handed over to the shipwrights. During the greater part of this duty, the men have of course to work up to the middle in water, and even in the woods, from the moist and swampy nature of the country where the timber trees grow, their employment is generally of a very disagreeable and harrassing kind.

The manner in which the men are fed during this labour, may also be considered some addition to the severity of the discipline. As soon as they are called from rest in the morning, they are served with a dish of porridge, composed of flour and water, and a little salt; after which they embark in their boats, and row to their several woodcutting stations, where they continue to work without any other provision until they return at night, when they are supplied with a substantial meal, the main repast of the day. If the weather should happen to be rough, or the wind adverse, so as to impede the progress of the boats, this meal is sometimes delayed till late, when of course the cravings of appetite, after the exercise of the day, must be great.

Notwithstanding this rigid discipline, however, and the inclemency of the climate, the prisoners generally enjoy good health. The little island

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itself on which they sleep, is composed of a dry gravel, and the regularity of their life and temperate fare, though compulsory, no doubt contributes materially to the absence of disease amongst them.

The Rev. Mr. Schoefield, the Wesleyan missionary, was most zealous in his exertions at this settlement. The grossest ignorance prevailed among the prisoners. Men of forty and fifty years of age were taught to read by him; and he was unceasing in his endeavours to instruct them both temporally and spiritually. Every assistance was rendered him by the authorities, in his laudable labours.

One of the greatest evils attendant on transportation to felons, is the chance of bad masters; for on any complaint to a magistrate, he has power to inflict severe floggings, without any appeal, and in many cases where the punishment has been inflicted, for slight offences, or in some cases without any real fault, it has led to the most revengeful retaliation, and burnings of property and horrible murders have been the consequence. Strict justice is, I conceive, the best incentive to good conduct, among even the most desperate characters, and the want of it, the surest road to the worst of crimes. Previous to the Governorship of Col. Arthur, the magistrates had power also to send prisoners to the penal settlements without trial;

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this piece of injustice was however corrected by his humane interference; and having had convicts in my employ for five years, I feel confident that arbitrary punishments tend to debase their character rather than to reform it, which is said to be the object of all correction.

Maria Island is another penal settlement, which was commenced in the year 1825, and situated at the foot of a lofty mountain, called the Bishop and Clerk, at the northern extremity, opposite Prosser's Bay. About one hundred and fifty convicts are employed at it, who have been transported from the main colony for various heavy offences, though not usually of so black a hue as those sent to Macquarie Harbour. It is singular, however, to witness the iron grasp of crime on some wretched men. The miserable man, Nottingham, who expiated his offences, in 1830, commenced his career by disobeying his parents, he paid various visits to the penitentiaries and houses of correction in England, was at last tried and transported to this country—was again banished to Maria Island from which he managed to be removed for still higher offences to Macquarie Harbour, and ultimately finished his career on the gallows at Hobart Town, so that the correcting hand of justice, instead of restraining, or sending him back to a honest life, seems to have impelled him on by re-

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gular degrees to the pinnacle of ignominy. Such, however, are but rare instances.

Port Arthur, the third penal settlement, situated on Tasman's Peninsula, named after his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, promises to be of considerable advantage to the colony. The formation of the establishment commenced in September 1830, under the direction of Mr. Russell, Assistant Surgeon of the 63d regiment.

It was intended for the reception of convicts from Macquarie Harbour, who have conducted themselves well during a portion of their sentence at that Penal settlement, or in some instances from the chain gangs, as a progressive step towards the greater indulgence of re-admitting them amongst the community at large. They are principally employed in felling and drawing the fine timber, with which that part of the country abounds.

But another most important object of this settlement, and probably that which is likely to prove of the greatest ultimate benefit to the colony, is the instruction of boys in trades, chiefly that of sawyers. They are to be sent down to the settlement immediately after their arrival in Hobart Town, and placed under the charge of persons competent to teach them. Before I left a number of boys had been sent there, and received instruction in various trades.

Thus, instead of heretofore, of being spread

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through the country, where they only learnt vices and irregularities, and formed connexions which eventually led in many instances to their ruin, they are taught habits of industry, and it is to be hoped will become capable of rendering essential service to the public, and of afterwards earning for themselves a reputable livelihood.

When the convict ships arrive, the superintendants go on board, and having taken their full description, the prisoners are removed to the convict Barracks. There they are inspected by the Governor, who usually represents to them what they have to expect from bad conduct and what to hope for from good conduct. All those who are of useful trades, calculated for the public works, are kept for that purpose, the others are assigned to different masters, who may have applied for assistants; the demand in general being much greater than the supply. They are lent out, and if those who are transported for seven years conduct themselves with sobriety, and so as not to be brought before a magistrate for any offence, after serving four years, by a memorial to the governor, they may obtain a ticket of leave; this enables them to work for any master they may choose to engage with, at regular wages, still being subject to the convict regulations, of being called on by the government on particular occasions; to be at regular muster on Sundays, to attend divine

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service; and not to go out of the district without a pass; those transported for fourteen years, may obtain the same indulgence, after six years service with good conduct; and those transported for life after eight years. Those who work for the government have the same privileges. Further indulgences may be obtained, and even entire emancipation on a continuance of uniform good conduct. At one period tickets of leave were procurable almost immediately on the prisoner's arrival out; but at present the strictest regard is had to the regulations; and convicts are now frequently transported from England direct to the penal settlements, without any chance of indulgence, where the labour and privations are more severe than horses are subjected to in this country. For minor offences committed by the convicts at Hobart Town, or the other settlements, they are subjected to floggings and to labour on the roads in chain gangs. Taken in its most mitigated shape, transportation is now a very severe punishment, and in its penal application, equal to any crime which man can commit against the property of man.

The foregoing particulars relate to male convicts. When a vessel arrives with female convicts they are first placed in the female house of correction, where, if they misbehave themselves they are punished with solitary confinement; they are occu-

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pied in various ways according to their ability. On application from married settlers, they are assigned out, and their periods of servitude, before any indulgence can be obtained, are the same as the male convicts. In case of any misdemeanor while serving a master or mistress, on application to a magistrate, they are punished by being sent back to the house of correction, to solitary confinement, and by having their hair shaved close off: the latter punishment is dreaded more than any other. Previous to governor Arthur's time, a frequent punishment inflicted on females, was the placing of an iron collar round their necks, on each side of which was a long prong, which gave them the appearance of horned cattle; and with this head dress they were exposed in the church during service. This, however, was discontinued by governor Arthur.

The Aboriginal natives of Van Diemen's Land are of an idle roving character; the men employ themselves principally in hunting Kangaroos, Oppossums and other animals, in petty warfare between their various tribes, or in depredations on the settlers. To the latter they have been trained, and are most frequently led by the runaway convicts, who have joined them in the bush; and under such leaders they have been found very dangerous enemies. The women are subjected to the most laborious employments, (a

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practice characteristic of most savage nations.) They are particularly expert at swimming and diving, and the females will with ease descend in from three to four fathom of water, for the purpose of obtaining craw-fish. The weapons used by the men, are spears formed of a very hard wood, charred at the points, with which they are extremely dexterous. They also use what are called Waddies, a blow from which in their hands would fell an ox.

The Benevolent Societies in the Colony, are become numerous, and are still increasing. At Hobart Town may be enumerated :—The Branch Bible Society, at the head of which, ranked His Excellency Col. Arthur. The district Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The Presbyterian Missionary Society. The Presbyterian Tract Society. The Wesleyan Missionary Society. The Benevolent and Strangers' Friend Society. The Sunday School Wesleyan Union, &c. There is also a Mechanics Institution, and other Scientific Societies. The following testimony of their value is taken from Ross's Statistical View: —"The benevolent labours of the Established Clergy are well supported by the other classes of the community. Among the most respectable associations, which contribute their aid to the cause of ameliorating the condition of society, are very numerous lists of Subscribers to the Auxiliary

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Branch Bible Society, to the Society for Promoting Christian knowledge, to the Presbyterian and Wesleyan Missionary Societies, and to the Presbyterian Tract Society. This last, indeed, though perhaps the least assuming in its pretensions, is probably one of the most effective among them, from the powerful nature of example in the very nature of its construction. It is the custom of a certain portion of the members to go through the whole of the streets of Hobart Town every Sunday morning, delivering at each door the little tracts, and collecting the old ones, which had been read the previous week, occasionally entering into conversation with such of the inhabitants as may be so inclined on the subject of what they had been reading; and it cannot but have a most beneficial effect upon them, and society at large, to see men thus voluntarily exerting themselves, sacrificing their own ease and avocations at home, to come forth at all seasons of the year, purely from philanthropic motives and a wish to benefit their fellow men."

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The following are the terms upon which the Crown Lands are disposed of in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, as directed by the Colonial Office, 20th of January, 1831; *and these regulations are still in force.*

It has been determined by his Majesty's Government that no land shall, in future, be disposed of in New South Wales, or Van Diemen's Land, otherwise than by Public Sale, and it has therefore been deemed expedient to prepare for the information of settlers, the following summary of the Rules which it has been thought fit to lay down for regulating the Sales of Land in those colonies.

1.—A Division of the whole Territory into Counties, Hundreds, and Parishes is in progress. —When that division shall be completed, each

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parish will comprise an Area of about Twenty-five square miles.

2.—All the Lands in the Colony, not hitherto granted, and not appropriated for public purposes, will be put up to sale.—The price will of course depend upon the quality of the Land, and its local situation, but no land will be sold below the rate of Five Shillings per acre.

3.—All persons proposing to purchase Lands not advertised for sale, must transmit a written application to the Governor, in a certain prescribed form, which will be delivered at the Surveyor General's Office to all persons applying, on payment of the requisite Fee of 2*s.* 6*d.*

4.—Those persons who are desirous of purchasing, will be allowed to select, within certain defined limits, such portions of Land as they may wish to acquire in that manuer. These portions of Land will be advertised for Sale for Three Calendar months, and will then be sold to the highest bidder, provided that such bidding shall at least amount to the sum fixed by Article 2.

5.— A deposit of 10 per Cent, upon the whole purchase must be paid down at the time of Sale, and the remainder must be paid within One Ca-

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lendar Month from the day of Sale, previous to which the purchaser will not be put in possession of the Land:—and in case of payment not being made within the prescribed period, the Sale will be considered void, and the deposit forfeited.

6.—On payment of the money, a grant will be made in Fee-simple, to the purchaser, at the nominal quit-rent of a Pepper-corn.—Previous to the delivery of such grant, a Fee of Forty shillings will be payable to the Colonial Secretary, for preparing the Grant, and another Fee of Five Shillings to the Registrar of the Supreme Court for enrolling it.

7.—The Land will generally be put up to sale in Lots of One Square Mile, or 640 Acres, but smaller lots than 640 Acres, may, under particular circumstances, be purchased, on making application to the Governor in writing, with full explanations of the reasons for which the parties wish to purchase a smaller quantity.

8.—The Crown reserves to itself the right of making and constructing such Roads and Bridges as may be necessary for public purposes in all Lands purchased as above, and also to such indigenous Timber, Stone, and other materials, the produce of the Land, as may be required for mak-

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ing and keeping the said Roads and Bridges in repair, and for any other Public Works.—The Crown further reserves to itself all Mines of precious Metals.

For further particulars of Van Diemen's Land see "*Satistical View,*" a few Copies of which the Author has still on sale.—Price 2*s*.

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FROM THE PLYMOUTH JOURNAL, OF MAY 24, 1838.

"*Goodridge's Narrative of his Shipwreck, and Two Year's Residence on an uninhabited Island.*—1 *vol.* 12*mo. p.p.* 180—*Featherstone, Exeter.*—We are by no means encouragers of strolling authors; and have been so often imposed upon by false credentials of eleemosynary desert in itinerant vendors of literature, that when the Narrative of "Charles Medyett Goodridge's Shipwreck and two Years' Residence on an Uninhabited Island" was first left for our notice, we resolved on considering it of a piece with all other matters wearing the same external character. It so happened, however, that we *did* allow ourselves to look into the little volume in question, and we deem it an especial duty to record our opinion of its merits. The writer, who personally submits the book for sale, is a native of Paignton, in this county; and he has detailed in a most simple, truthful, and therefore fascinating way, the narrative of his long sojourn (with others of his shipwrecked companions) on one of the Crozet Islands in the South Seas. If we opened the volume under an impulse of mistrust, we proceeded to read it with an ever increasing interest; and we can cordially recommend it to the perusal of all who can appreciate the romance of truth, and the simplicity of genuine piety. It is the *second* edition of the little work to which we now refer, understanding that it is an improvement on the first. Should there be a call for a third edition, we would only submit to the author a few occasional corrections in grammar, the general style of writing being remarkably good."

FROM THE PLYMOUTH HERALD, OF MAY 26, 1838.

"*Goodridge's Narrative.*—We have had (we presume, in common with many of our readers) a small volume left for inspection, under the title of a "Narrative of a Voyage to the South Seas, and the Shipwreck of the Princess of Wales, cutter, with an account of Two Years' Residence on an uninhabited island; by one of the survivors, Charles Medyett Goodridge, of Paignton, Devon." We only think that the honest and sensible author of this little work would have done the world and himself more service, had he addressed the curiosity and sympathies of England through a more influential and expanded medium than that of local publication and private sale. We should have conceived that an edition of this book well edited, and handsomely introduced in octavo by one of the leading publishers would safely pass through the ordeal of criticism into public favor. The hero-author has evidently received some important assistance in the composition of his matter; but it is still equally evident that his own native talent and observation, aided by an unusual facility in making the most of his humble education, have been his chief friends. We will not rest upon the desireableness of a few—not many—grammatical corrections; because we believe that the sagacity of many readers will discover in these superficial errors a testimony to substantial truth. The Whole story bears internal evidence of fidelity. Its diction is *essentially* good. It is equally honourable to the writer's head and heart. It details events, thoughts, and actions, which would have made a higher born man a distinguished hero; and its progress is fraught with facts, incidents, and Reflections, calculated to enhance our knowledge, improve our morals, and stimulate our religious faith."

I have read the narrative of C. M. Goodridge, which is very interesting, and bears the evidence of authenticity.

EDWIN O'TREGELLES.

Torquay, 23rd 3rd month, 1838.

I have read Mr. Charles Medyett Goodridge's publication, and having had a long conversation with him, can vouch for the authenticity of his narrative, having been myself on a voyage of discovery round the world—and when a boy at Dartmouth knew his rel[illegible] school fellows

28, Cobourg-street, P[illegible]th, JOHN CAWLEY,

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FROM THE DEVONPORT INDEPENDENT, AUGUST, 4th, 1838.

Narrative of a Shipwreck and Two Years' Residence on an uninhabited Island in the South Sea, by CHARLES MEDYETT GOODRIDGE

This little work is really what its title states it to be, a narrative, plain and simply written, of the shipwreck of the author, and six companions, on one of the Crozette Islands, in the South Sea, in the beginning of 1821. On this rock they remained for more than two years, thrown entirely on their own ingenuity and resources for procuring shelter, food, and clothing. The detail of means resorted to, by which they continued for the whole of that time, with an abundant, if not very delicate, supply of food, remaining on the whole in good health, till they were found by an American Vessel, in as interesting an instance of the power which man possesses of adapting himself to almost any circumstances, as we ever remember to have read. Many particulars will be found, scattered up and down the work, of the habits of the different kinds of birds and sea animals frequenting the islands in those latitudes, worthy the notice of the naturalist; they are not perhaps scientifically recorded, but they are no less graphic on that account. Indeed, the book bears on every page, in the unaffected and straitforward manner in which it is written, an internal evidence that its statements are trustworthy. We are sorry to observe that, after all his perils and wanderings, the author's subsistence, in a great measure, depends on the sale of his little work. Should he seek the patronage of any of our readers, (for he disposes of his book in person,) we can recommend it, not on the ground of charity merely, but as being one likely to interest and instruct. We shall subjoin an extract from its pages, and we do not know that we can choose a better one than the following:—*Here the Editor copied extracts from Pages* 59, 60, 61, 62.

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OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

From the Royal Cornwall Gazette, Feb. 22, 1839.

NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE TO THE SOUTH SEAS; *and of a Two Year's Residence on an uninhabited Island.* By C. M. Goodridge.—Exeter: W. C. Featherstone.

We have had this narrative of a shipwrecked Mariner left with us by the fortunate individual himself—Mr. Charles Medyett Goodridge—for fortunate he may well be considered in having survived perils innumerable, to tell his own tale in a very interesting manner, and with so much unaffected simplicity, that, without the voucher of a long list of subscribers from the neighbourhood of his birth place—Paignton in Devonshire—we should have entertained no doubt of its authenticity.

According to his own unvarnished tale, the Author departed from his native shores on the first of May, 1820, in the *Princess of Wales* Cutter, of about 75 tons burthen, with a crew of 15 men, including the captain and mate, for the South Seas, in pursuit of Seals; and on the 17th of March following, was wrecked on a desert Island, one of a group of five Islands, called the Crozets, situate between the 46th and 47th degrees South latitude and between the 49th and 50th E. longitude. Not a tree nor a shrub grows on either of them; yet here he and his companions were destined to pass nearly two years, living on sea-elephants, seals, and other such delicacies; and when at length they had contrived to put together a boat, capable of barely accommodating five of their party, who were to have left the Island in the forlorn hope of falling in with some ship at sea, or some land of better promise, they were happily discovered by an American schooner, the Captain of which took them all on board, not to bear them to their distant homes, but to leave them as chance or choice would have it, in different parts of the wide Southern World. Our adventurer gained a temporary settlement in Van Diseman's Land, of which he gives a good and particular account. But for this and much other matter of deeper interest we must refer to the book itself, which should be bought and read by all to whom it is offered, as offered we suppose it will be to most of our readers by the Author personally; for after so many hair-breadth escapes, he appears to have come to the wise determination of seeking celebrity and an honest penny in his native land, rather than trust himself again to the perils of the deep.

He is fully deserving of having a good word said for him; for his book will be found to contain sentiments which do him equal credit as a brave seaman and a pious christian. Prefixed to it, moreover, is a full length portrait of the Author himself in his seal-skin costume, which is alone worth half the cost of the book it adorns, as will be admitted by every one who may take the trouble of comparing it, as we have done, with the original. There is but one question which it just now occurs to us to put to the Author: What is become of the copy of the Bible of which he speaks with such admirable devotion and gratitude? We hope it is still in his possession: and if so, we recommend him to carry it in future about with him, as the inspection of it will add considerably to the interest which he and his narrative are calculated to excite.

We have given this notice the preference, in point of time, over two or three others, which are due from us to Authors of higher literary pretensions than Mr. Goodridge, for a reason which we hope our friends will appreciate.

From the West Briton & Cornwall Advertiser March 1, 1839.

NARRATIVE OF A VOYAGE TO THE SOUTH SEAS; and the shipwreck of the Princess of Wales Cutter, with an account of a Two Years' Residence on an uninhabited Island, by one of the survivors, Charles Medyett Goodridge, of Paignton, Devon.—Second Edition. W. C. Featherstone. Exeter.

We are free to confess that our dislike to itinerant venders of their own writings induced us to take up this small volume, under the influence of no very sanguine feelings that we should peruse it to the end, but the Narrative, whether written by Mr. Goodridge, or some other person, bears so much

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of the stamp of truth, that we went through it with increasing interest, to the close. The author it appears went on a sealing voyage to the South Seas, and with his companions was wrecked on one of the Crozet Islands, which are uninhabited, where he remained about two years, when he was taken off by an American vessel, and ultimately carried to Van Diemen's Land, where he continued for some time, and then returned home. Since his return he states that he has sustained heavy losses, and that upon the sale of this volume he is now chiefly dependant for his support. As his testimonials appear respectable we recommend the unfortunate writer and his narrative to the sympathy of a benevolent public.

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